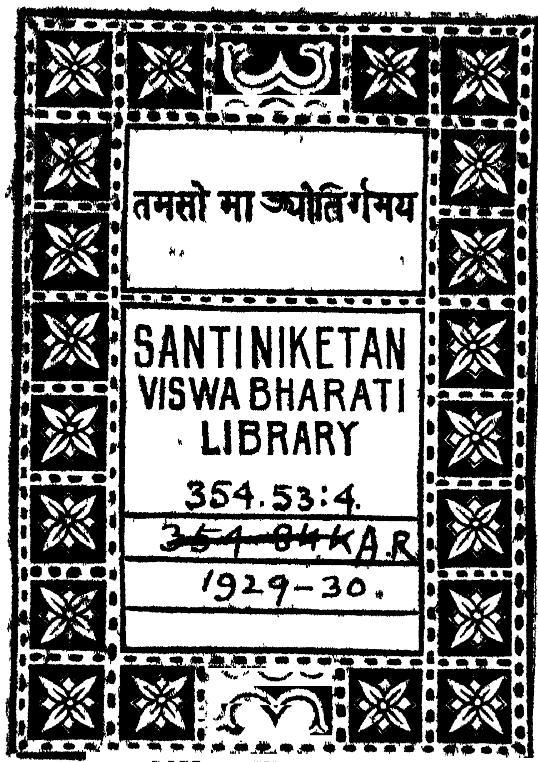


तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय
SANTINIKETAN
VISWA BHARATI
LIBRARY
354.53:4.
~~354.84~~KA.R
1929-30.



Government of Bengal

Revenue Department

Report of the Administration of Bengal 1929-30

Calcutta
Bengal Secretariat Book Depot
1931

Published by the Bengal Secretariat Book Depot,
Writers' Buildings, Calcutta.

Agents in India.

Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Printers and Booksellers, College Street, Calcutta.
Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta.

Customers in the United Kingdom and the Continent of Europe
may obtain publications either direct from the High Commissioner's office
or through any bookseller.

Contents.

PART I.

General Summary.

PART II.

Chapter I.—Physical and Political Geography.

Chapter II.—Administration of the Land.

Chapter III-A.—Protection.

Chapter III-B.—Protection.

Chapter IV-A.—Production and Distribution.

Chapter IV-B.—Production and Distribution.

Chapter V.—Revenue and Finance.

Chapter VI.—Vital Statistics and Medical Service.

Chapter VII.—Instruction.

Chapter VIII.—Miscellaneous.

Bengal Administration Report, 1929-30.

Introduction.

The Report is, as usual, divided into two parts. Part I deals chiefly with political events and the work of the Legislative Council in 1930, and contains a section on provincial finance in 1929-30. In Part II, a detailed account is given of the various branches of administration based on departmental reports. Where necessary, references have been given to the more comprehensive Administration Report of 1921-22 for supplementary information.

Part I.—General Summary.

Political.

The Congress Party.

1. At the beginning of the year interest centred round the decisions of the Congress at Lahore. The Independence Resolution and the resolutions to boycott the Councils and the Round Table Conference had a mixed reception in Bengal being welcomed whole-heartedly only by the Extreme Party. Forty Swarajists resigned their seats in the Legislative Council, but no Muhammadan resigned.

The 26th January was fixed for the celebration of Independence Day. Numerous meetings were held in districts throughout the province to advertise the occasion and decide on the method of celebration. It was decided that the main items in the programme were to be the hoisting of the National Flag in the morning and a mass meeting in the evening at which the meaning of independence was to be explained. The programme was carried out in most districts, but the lack of enthusiasm displayed was a poor response to the preliminary advertisement. Few Muhammadans took part in the celebration; the Hindu participants were confined to Congress and Youth Circles being mainly students, school boys and a few lawyers. In Calcutta the National Flag was hoisted at the Municipal Office. The success or otherwise of the Independence Day celebration had been looked on as a test of public opinion, and the result seemed to indicate that so far Congress propaganda had little influence outside the comparatively narrow circle of active Congress supporters. The leaders of the Congress Party, Messrs. Subhas Bose and J. M. Sen Gupta, were in prison during most of

the year, nevertheless the feud between their followers continued. Mr. Sen Gupta was elected alderman of the Corporation of Calcutta in April. Owing to his absence in prison another election of alderman and Mayor became necessary in July. Both he and Mr. Subhas Bose were put forward as candidates for alderman, and there was much bitterness on either side. In the end Mr. Sen Gupta withdrew from his candidature and Mr. Subhas Bose was elected alderman against a Muhammadan candidate. He was subsequently elected Mayor. He and Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta were released from prison in September, but the latter was again imprisoned in November. Under the influence of the Congress Majority, the Calcutta Corporation continued to identify itself with Congress politics and in various ways showed its sympathy with the Civil Disobedience campaign in the city. The record of the events of the year is mainly a record of the sinister activities of the Congress organisation.

The murder of Lieutenant-Colonel Simpson shocked even the Congress Party. On 10th December the Corporation of Calcutta unanimously adopted a resolution strongly condemning and expressing its abhorrence at the dastardly outrage. Mr. C. C. Biswas in moving the resolution pointed out that it could not be regarded as an isolated act of fanaticism or of private reprisal. It was the culmination of a series of outrages which proved the existence of a deep-seated and well-organised conspiracy to subvert Government by a policy of terrorism. He went on "I gratefully recognise that the Congress is opposed to the creed of violence, and I recognise that its leaders have always professed the deepest abhorrence of anything that savours of violence. At a time, however, when there is abroad a spirit of lawlessness and defiance of authority, I pause and ask, 'Is there no responsiblity or duty cast upon the leaders of the Congress to do something which will make the repetition of such incidents impossible? May we not ask them to think twice before they scatter seed upon a soil where, unfortunately, it may produce a noxious growth?' Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, the Mayor, speaking as the leader of the Congress Party, associated himself with the resolution. He said, "I sincerely deplore the tragic incidents of Monday last, and I do so, because I feel that they are a confession of the temporary failure of the Congress programme and also the temporary failure of the Congress leaders to influence cent. per cent. the younger generation in the country."

Start of the civil disobedience campaign.

2. Mr. Gandhi started his campaign of civil disobedience on 12th March with the eyes of all India on him. The extremist papers reported his proceedings at great length; but Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal headed his article in the Englishman "Gandhi Campaign—a great nation's tragic puerility." There was no immediate rush in

Bengal to imitate his activities. The Bengal Provincial Congress Committee was pre-occupied with internal dissensions in connection with the Calcutta Municipal elections which took place on 18th March and did little except form an "All Bengal Council of Disobedience." Numerous meetings held in the districts appeared at first to excite little interest and to leave no profound impression. It was noticeable, however, that ladies attended these meetings in increasing numbers. Practically no Muhammadans took part in the meetings, and the number of volunteers who came forward to take part in the movement was small at first. In Midnapore a site was selected where it was proposed that volunteers should start defying the salt laws in the beginning of April. Some volunteers started on a march from Bankura to make salt in Midnapore. Enthusiasm soon increased. Meetings were held at nearly all district and subdivisional headquarters. In many places Civil Disobedience Committees were formed, volunteers were enrolled and definite plans were made to start the movement.

The salt campaign in 24-Parganas.

3. Very soon more serious efforts were made in the direction of defying the Salt Laws. The important scenes of the operations were in 24-Parganas and Midnapore districts. In the former district there were three main centres. At Mahishbathan, which is a short distance to the east of Calcutta, a regular camp of satyagrahis was established in the compound of the president of the local Congress Committee. The camp was patrolled and picketted and the national flag was flown. At Kalikapur on the railway salt was manufactured by daily passengers from Calcutta. The third centre was at Nila near Hooghly Point. Excise and police officers confined themselves to confiscating the salt and destroying the utensils. A few arrests of ringleaders only were made. It was only at Nila that any resistance was offered. Towards the end of April a large crowd was instigated by some satyagrahis to attack a force of 15 police, 8 excise peons and 10 chaukidars under the Assistant Superintendent of Police. After the force was attacked on three sides and almost all its members hurt, two shots had to be fired before the crowd dispersed, leaving one man killed and three wounded.

The enthusiasm for manufacture of illicit salt was short-lived. The volunteers began to shew activity only when the police appeared on the scene. In the districts affected the salt campaign had slackened by the end of April or had been diverted to the boycott of foreign cloth and cigarettes and the picketing of liquor shops. Intense propaganda for these purposes went on in almost all districts of the province. Meetings became very numerous and volunteers moved incessantly among the towns and villages. In addition, boycott of Government officials, praticularly the police, became one

of the common subjects of propaganda, and attempts began to be made to put the boycott into practice.

Midnapore salt campaign. April-May.

4. On 5th April a band of volunteers from Bankura, which included recruits from Comilla, Faridpur, Dacca and Dinajpur, arrived in Contai. The salt campaign was initiated on the following day at Pichabani where the volunteers made some salt which was immediately seized by the police and excise authorities. Soon salt was being manufactured in forty villages near Contai. In Midnapore there has always been a considerable amount of illicit salt manufacture for home consumption. Conditions were favourable for an organised breach of the Salt Laws as the villagers were on the side of the volunteers against Government officials. The situation was vigorously tackled by the Magistrate. Arrest of the leaders, their prompt conviction and orders under section 144 strictly enforced had great effect. By the beginning of May the action of the authorities made salt operations so difficult that many volunteers from other districts had gone home, though about 500 remained in Contai subdivision and fresh batches continued to arrive. On the 9th May all the volunteers within reach were rounded up, many were arrested, many were allowed to return to their homes and their headquarters were broken up. By the end of May illicit salt manufacture was practically at an end. A feature of the situation in Midnapore was the open hostility encountered by the Police and Government officers. Shops were closed in Contai and Government officers and persons known to be loyal could not get supplies. Bus owners refused to take officers and their servants and luggage. On one occasion when a police party wanted a boat, six villagers jumped into it and sank it.

The disaffection of the District Board of Midnapore added to the difficulties of the local authorities. The district board had for long been a Congress stronghold and many of its officers were employed in spreading disaffection in the interior of the district. In June when the Magistrate became official Chairman of the Board he put an abrupt end to their activities and eliminated a dangerous source of Congress propaganda.

Attacks on the Police by mobs in Midnapore. June.

5. Failing in their salt campaign the agitators in Midnapore turned their attention to intensive propaganda aimed at stirring up general disaffection against Government and including the boycott of Government servants and intimidation of chaukidars. This movement became serious after the arrest of Mr. Gandhi. The volunteers notably in Ghatal subdivision definitely abandoned their non-violent methods and started inciting the villagers to adopt violent methods in carrying out the civil disobedience programme. The volunteers soon obtained influence in the villages of that subdivision. Steps were taken to remove the volunteers from Ghatal

and they established themselves at Bander in Hooghly district across the Rupnarayan whence they carried on propaganda by sending out parties secretly mainly in Daspur thana. The result of this propaganda was a series of attacks on the police by murderous mobs organised by volunteers.

On 3rd June at Chechua Hat in Daspur police-station of Ghatal subdivision two Sub-Inspectors with two armed and two unarmed constables who had gone to arrest some volunteers were attacked. One of the Sub-Inspectors was brutally murdered on the spot; the other has disappeared and was undoubtedly murdered. The Additional District Magistrate and the Additional Superintendent of Police with 18 armed constables proceeded to Chechua Hat on 5th June. They were repeatedly attacked by large mobs and had to retreat to Shamganj and thence to Ghatal. The District Magistrate went out with 50 armed police to Ghatal where he was joined by the Inspector-General of Police with 50 men of the Assam Frontier Rifles and on the 9th by 70 of the Eastern Frontier Rifles. This force visited Chechua Hat and restored order.

On 31st May following an arrest of volunteers in Pataspur police-station in Contai a Sub-Inspector and four others were attacked by a crowd of villagers. The Assistant Superintendent of Police went to their rescue and had to fire killing two and injuring two.

On 6th June at Narendia Khal near Balishai in Ramnagar an Inspector with 20 others had to fire on a mob of 800, which attacked them after they had broken salt pans and arrested a volunteer.

On 11th June at Khera in Pingla police-station in Sadar subdivision a mob of 1,000 men with lathis collected when the Assistant Superintendent of Police arrested 4 volunteers. The mob refused to disperse, a lathi charge failed to disperse them and the officer ordered his men to fire. About 10 men fell and the mob was checked. Subsequent instigation showed that 10 were killed and 26 wounded. On many other occasions bodies of police had to deal with hostile mobs with less serious consequences. The vigorous and systematic action of the Magistrate and the police with the help of reinforcements soon stopped the more violent manifestations of the movement.

Midnapore—July. No-tax campaign.

6. In July however the civil disobedience movement in Midnapore showed renewed activity in the form of a determined campaign for the non-payment of chaukidari taxes. The situation was grave and gave rise to great anxiety. The opposition of the people of Tamluk subdivision to the payment of chaukidari taxes was most stubborn. The people are nearly all Mahisyas and the fact that they are of one caste to some extent explains the solidarity of their attitude. Though individuals seemed fairly reasonable,

as soon as a few got together their attitude became utterly unreasonable. They eagerly listened to the false stories spread by the volunteers in the villages. Chaukidars who rendered help to collecting officers were beaten. Scores of chaukidars had their uniforms forcibily taken away and were driven from their villages. Threats, assaults, house-burning and even the throwing of night-soil were the weapons used. The terror inspired by these methods and by social boycott kept even the well-disposed from taking an open stand on the side of the law. It was found that attempts to enforce payment were defeated by people leaving their villages. The Additional District Magistrate went out by night and surrounded one or two villages. The following day people came in hundreds to pay their taxes and people in the neighbourhood sent word of their readiness to pay. When the police left however the volunteers returned and the people were again found willing to listen to their exhortations not to pay taxes. The temper of the people was such that it was impossible for small or unarmed bodies of police to go into the villages without running a grave risk of being surrounded, assaulted and even killed. Gradually by systematic police action thana after thana was reduced to order.

On 29th August the Commissioner reported as follows:—

"The situation in Midnapore shows signs of improvement though hope has been disappointed so often that we cannot yet be certain. During the earlier part of the fortnight, the Additional District Magistrate, Mr. S. K. Ghose, was operating in Moyna with a force. The situation was then reported to be bad, but the result of the action taken has been that the opposition in that thana has been broken and it is considered that a Sub-Inspector with 15 constables can now control the area. Panskura and Tamluk had previously been reduced to order and Government officers can now move about without fear of molestation. Taxes in Mahisadal have almost all been paid up. Contai has much improved and substitutes have been found for many chaukidars who had resigned. In Mohanpur which was a bad area, the non-payment campaign has been crushed and collection is now going on. Ghatal is quiet. In Midnapore town there is said to be no sign of civil disobedience, and the boys are playing football again. The area which remains to be dealt with is Sabang thana which has been intentionally left alone till adequate forces could be brought to bear on it. The Additional District Magistrate made a reconnaissance over the border on the 24th and was attacked by three large and hostile crowds which converged upon his force brandishing lathis and threatening to kill the police. After repeated warnings which had no effect, the crowds closing in more

and more, the Additional District Magistrate ordered two shots to be fired. One volunteer was wounded and crowds retired a short distance, but still remained in a threatening attitude. They did not disperse until more firing was threatened and the Additional District Magistrate had put 2 bullets into the ground close by. Three columns of police are now entering Sabang from the north, east and south and it is hoped that in a few days the situation will have altered considerably. This thana is now being quoted as a triumph for congress propaganda."

On 13th September the Commissioner reported as follows:—

"In Tamluk matters have much improved. Chaukidari taxes have been realised all over the subdivision. Many chaukidars have come back to work and civil disobedience in that area has received a serious check. When Government officers move about they no longer find large assemblies of people hurling insults and shouting revolutionary cries. It is felt that Government now controls the situation. It is reported, however, that dacoits, goondas and badmashes are taking advantage of the troubled state in the country. Cases have occurred where dacoits have taken advantage of the flight of villagers from the place to loot their property in their absence. The Additional District Magistrate has been operating in Sabang with large forces and reports that resistance has been very stubborn in some places. The result cannot yet be estimated. The next thana to be taken up is Narayangarh. After this has been dealt with it is hoped that the strength of the movement will have been broken, but as seditious propaganda is still going on, there can be no question of relaxing our efforts for some time to come; otherwise the advantage gained may be lost."

Civil disobedience campaign in other districts.

7. The civil disobedience campaign in Midnapore was more widespread and more intense than in other districts of the province, but there was no district which did not suffer. Civil disobedience committees were formed in every district. The functions of the committees were to recruit volunteers to collect funds and to conduct propaganda in outlying villages. For the furtherance of these objects meetings were held at which speeches were delivered calling on the villagers to enlist in the ranks of volunteers to boycott liquor, foreign cloth, cigarettes and to follow the commands of Mr. Gandhi. The speeches grew more seditious and violent, vilifying the British Government and its officers and preaching breach of all laws: they were so numerous that the task of reporting them all was beyond the powers of the police.

Picketing of shops became common. In Calcutta it was mostly confined to foreign cloth shops. The employment of ladies for this purpose caused much embarrassment to the police. They carried out their self-imposed unlawful tasks with a persistence worthy of a better cause. In the mofussal the picketing was mainly confined to liquor shops and soon gave up the pretence of being peaceful. Several liquor shops were burnt, chiefly in Bankura. Forcible obstruction by picketers and snatching of bottles from purchasers were common. Three boats laden with toddy were sunk by a band of volunteers in the district of 24-Parganas.

On 14th May in Mymensingh a mob went to prevent the issue of liquor from the excise warehouse and attacked a strong force of police. The Additional District Magistrate had to order the police to fire after 33 of his force had been injured; 53 of the rioters were treated in hospital. A few days later about 50 persons armed with lathis attacked a cart with stores on the way to the club, broke the boxes and burnt the contents. On one occasion 100 volunteer picketers with lathis stood over a liquor shop in Goalundo with 200 men in reserve. They had to be driven away by the police. The immediate result of the picketing was a great fall in excise revenue and a great increase in illicit distillation. Moderate public opinion began to grow impatient of the interference with trade. The Marwari Association in a statement to the Press in May protested against the effect on trade of cloth picketing and non-payment of taxes. By the end of June instances occurred of picketing being vigorously resented; still cases of active and often violent molestation continued to recur till September.

In districts other than Midnapore the no-tax campaign seldom got beyond the stage of talk and propaganda. The resistance to payment of union rates at Bandabilla in Jessore which continued from last year weakened in January when the Muhammadans came in on the side of the district board, and gradually collapsed. There was intense propaganda in Bankura without much result. Balurghat in Dinajpur was a troublesome centre. Some union board members resigned in the districts and many chaukidars resigned. There was generally little difficulty in replacing union board members; candidates for the vacancies came forward. Resignations of chaukidars were usually forced and most of them came back to work after a month or two. Generally it may be said that the union boards stood the test well. In a season of general trade depression and especially of abnormally low jute prices a no-tax campaign must have had considerable attractions for the struggling cultivator.

Boycott of Government officers was freely advocated in the speeches of agitators and attempts at boycott were made at various

places. Though such attempts had never more than a very temporary success they added to the strain and difficulties under which the local officers, especially police officers, had to carry on their work.

Hartals.

The Congress party had frequent recourse to hartals especially on the occasion of arrests of important persons. On 15th April a lightning hartal was called on the conviction of Messrs. Sen Gupta and Jawahar Lal Nehru. In South Calcutta there were serious consequences; trams were burnt, the Fire Brigade was attacked, one European girl was attacked and left unconscious on the road. At night motor cars were stoned and some European ladies and gentlemen were injured. Hartal was observed in most towns throughout the province.

A special effort was made on 6th May following the arrest of Mr. Gandhi. In Calcutta the police were able to keep the celebrations under control by the exercise of well devised precautions. Light lorry patrols were kept running along the main streets. Special constables took over 32 posts in the town. Except for eight armoured cars which helped in patrolling no use was made of military forces though these had been reinforced and were in readiness. In Howrah the Bengal Police had a difficult time. On two occasions police pickets were attacked and the sergeants had to use their revolvers. The District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police were attacked on three sides by a mob of carters and the Superintendent had to use his revolver.

Throughout the province there were successful hartals. The courts were the principal objects of attack in many districts and a feature of the proceedings was the use of women picketers to bar access to the courts. At Mymensingh the roads to the courts were blocked by women and children. The Magistrate was reluctant to use force and the courts remained closed. This success apparently encouraged the local agitators. Eight days later the violence of the mob resulted in the serious conflict at the excise warehouse which has already been described. At Comilla volunteers picketed entrance to the courts on 7th and 8th. No pleaders came and few officers reached the courts. On the 9th the Magistrate and District Judge decided to close the courts. The efforts to close the courts at Noakhali failed. At Bogra a number of *pardanashin* ladies joined in the processions. There were more or less complete hartals in most headquarters and subdivisional towns in the province and in addition the behaviour of mobs led by volunteers at Ranaghat and Sheorapuli in Hooghly district gave evidence of the prevailing tendency to violence. The success of the efforts of 7th to 9th May at Comilla evidently inspired the leaders there to further deeds. On 14th May following the arrest of Mr. Tyabji there

was a fairly successful hartal accompanied by vigorous picketing chiefly by women. On 4th June a party from Comilla organised a determined but unsuccessful blockade of the courts at Noakhali in which women were employed as picketers.

By the end of the year the hartal became much less popular as a form of political demonstration; the people were tired of hartals. In November hartals called on account of the arrest of Messrs. J. M. Sen Gupta and Jawahar Lal Nehru were not successful. The inauguration of the Round Table Conference on 12th November was the occasion for an attempted hartal in Calcutta which met with very little success.

Special measures to deal with civil disobedience.

8. Ordinances to enable the executive to deal with picketing, boycott and with the no-tax campaign were promulgated by the Governor-General on 30th May. In the statements published along with the Ordinances the reasons for the promulgation were explained. Special measures were necessary to deal with these manifestations of a movement designed to paralyse the Government and coerce the public. The prevention of Intimidation Ordinance was extended to Calcutta and to every district in the province except Malda, Pabna and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The Unlawful Instigation Ordinance was extended in respect of union board and chaukidari taxes to 18 out of the 27 districts of the province.

The Civil Disobedience Committees of Midnapore were declared unlawful associations under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908.

At first the policy of Government in dealing with picketing was to arrest only ring-leaders. This was found ineffective and action had to be taken against the rank and file. The incarceration of numerous short-term prisoners of a troublesome class led to difficulties in jail administration.

The Press.

9. The excitement over the adoption of the independence resolution by the Congress and the decision to boycott the Councils and the Round Table Conference was naturally reflected in the extremist press which for the most part supported the attitude of the Congress and did its utmost to convert the moderate section of public opinion to the Congress view. The tone of this section of the press, always violently hostile to Government, deteriorated steadily until with the institution of the salt campaign by Mr. Gandhi in March, it became definitely seditious. Each morning brought forth a fresh burst of unreasoned hatred against the Government and the British, and the complete severance of the British connection was openly advocated as the only hope of salvation for the country.

The force and sustained effort with which these subversive writings were poured forth could not but engender feelings of hatred against the Government and the police in a people so notoriously emotional as the Bengalis, and as these feelings began to manifest themselves so the campaign of hate was intensified. Most newspaper writers completely lost their heads and all tenets of journalism were entirely forgotten in an unparalleled campaign of abuse and misrepresentation of Government and its officers, and praise and glorification of those convicted of sedition and other political offences. Each newspaper vied with the other in the license of its language and the vileness of its lies in an endeavour to rouse the populace to fury against the established Government and to represent the agitation as a "war of independence" in which the whole country—man and woman and child alike—should take part. The greater part of this propaganda was of course carried out under the cloak of "non-violence" in defence to Mr. Gandhi, but as the "Statesman" aptly remarked in its leading article of the 18th April "non-violent lawlessness is insincerity at its worst, just as a lie that is half a truth is always the blackest of lies. Let it be admitted that the leaders of the movement have never talked of violence; that they have always been scrupulously careful to put the 'non' before it. Yet violence is the larger and more impressive part of the compound and makes the greater impression on the untutored minds of those on whom these leaders chiefly rely." At any rate, in spite of its professed adherence to the creed of non-violence, the extremist press did not hesitate to go to equal lengths to give the movement a martial aspect by urging the Indian public to "join up and fight," and by publishing daily references to the "National Militia," "going to the front," "mobilisation orders," "casualty lists," "rolls of honour," "heroes at the front," "blood of martyrs," etc., and there is no disguising the fact that its ultimate object was the overthrow, by armed force if necessary, of the present system of Government. As an instance of this it may be noted that the Chittagong Armoury raid was not generally condemned by the extremist press and that a few papers even expressed sentiments of approval of its object and of the participants. No Government could allow the press to prostitute itself in this way to the revolutionary elements in the country and it was not, therefore, a matter for surprise when on the 27th April His Excellency the Viceroy promulgated the Indian Press Ordinance to provide for the better control of the press.

The promulgation of this Ordinance obviously came as a shock to the Indian press which with its usual disregard for the realities of the situation chose to make a grievance of the matter and complained bitterly that it should have been warned before being subjected to such a drastic form of control. For some days most of

the Indian newspapers had a fit of the sulks and suspended publication, but eventually reason prevailed and sooner or later most of the papers, including the leading Congress organs, "Advance" and "Liberty," resumed publication after depositing security.

The Ordinance resulted in an immediate improvement in the tone of the press and genuine news gradually came to be featured once more instead of the columns of deliberate lies which had previously been the order of the day. This change in tone was steadily maintained throughout the life of the Ordinance and the standard of journalism during this period probably rose to a higher point than it has touched for years. With one exception, it was not found necessary to declare the security of any newspaper forfeited to Government.

The Indian Press Ordinance expired on October 27th and since that date there has been a steady deterioration in the writings of most of the vernacular newspapers and of course a complete relapse on the part of the gutter press. The extremist English papers, while doing their best to keep the civil disobedience movement alive, for a short time adhered to the standard maintained during the life of the Ordinance, but the last few weeks of the year witnessed a complete relapse with them also, the most abominable manifestation of which was the publicity given to the "sufferings" of Binay Bose and the barely veiled approval which was accorded to the outrage of December 8th at Writers' Buildings.

Yoeth movement. Schools and colleges.

10. The youth movement described in some detail in last year's report continued to make progress during the early months of the year. In Bogra an effort was made to train the local members in shooting by practice with air guns. In Bogra and in Krishnagar attempts were made to detach Boy Scouts from their allegiance and make them join the national volunteers. From the beginning of the year the situation in all colleges was disquieting. (The strike of students at Krishnagar and the conduct of students at Barisal, Dacca, Tippera and Rajshahi proved that the sympathies of the vocal portion of the student community were alienated from Government.) Their conduct gave Government and the educational authorities cause for great anxiety. (When the civil disobedience campaign opened the youth movement merged in the general campaign and the forces of the movement were mobilised.) The bhadralok youth of Bengal provided the volunteers who incited the local activities of the movement and kept them alive.

Towards the end of June the All Bengal Students' Association proposed a three months' strike as a demonstration against the Simon Commission and against assaults by the police. The Ashutosh College in Bhowanipore went on strike when it reopened on 23rd

June. The pretext was the refusal of the authorities to postpone the anuual examination when several of their fellows were in jail. Two other schools in Calcutta also went on strike. In July student and women picketers prevented the University Law Examinations from being held. The police did not interfere because the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University in an appeal to the students had stated that the University desired to make no use of any external compelling force for the purpose of maintaining peace within the premises of the University institutions. Government decided that the Presidency College should be kept open, and, if necessary, that the police should be called in. A number of picketers entered the College on 14th July and had to be turned out by the police. A mob of students in Rajshahi after going round the colleges and schools entered the Guru Training School, tore down the King's portrait and trampled on it. Picketing continued and on 28th July the Intermediate Law Examination of the University could not be held. In Dacca there was a similar result; picketers broke into the examination room and tore up the papers. Throughout the districts also picketers interfered with schools and colleges. The object was to close the colleges and schools and mobilise the students in the civil disobedience campaign. A great many schools in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions were affected, some were closed for a time, others carried on with poor attendance: parents and guardians were against the movement, generally, but were afraid or unable to assert their authority. /Activity was less marked in Eastern than in Western Bengal./ This phase of the civil disobedience movement active during July, was gradually given up and by September, picketing of schools was negligible.

The appeal of extremist politicians to the young men of Bengal, known as the youth movement, which caused Government and the moderate section of the community so much anxiety last year, bore its fatal fruit this year when youths were the misguided agents in so many crimes, some petty and even puerile in themselves though fraught with serious consequences in the mass, many violent and dangerous and some cold blooded and murderous to a degree that shocked public opinion.

11. The year was marked by a large number of violent crimes committed for the purpose of inspiring terror of the revolutionary party in the officers of Government. Some of these were directly planned in furtherance of the terrorist conspiracy, others were the outcome of the spirit of lawlessness engendered by the civil disobedience movement which encouraged its ill-balanced youthful adherents to use the resources and methods of the terrorist party for isolated crimes of local origin. Terrorism.

At the very beginning of the year a house search in Mechuabazar in Calcutta in connection with the Puthia Mail robbery case disclosed the existence of a wide conspiracy for the purpose of making bombs for the destruction of life. Twenty-four persons were put on trial and 17 of them were convicted and given sentences varying from 3 to 10 years. The burning of the Station Club at Comilla by incendiaries during the night following "Independence day" was a crime of some political significance.

Chittagong. Feni. Chandernagar.

The outbreak at Chittagong was the work of about 100 youths of the local terrorist party led by ex-detenus. The outbreak occurred simultaneously at three places. Eight or ten armed men appeared at the Telegraph Office at about 10 p.m. and burnt out the telephone exchange. The Auxiliary Force armoury was captured by another body after killing the Sergeant Major and one watcher and wounding another watcher. After looting the arms the insurgents set fire to the armoury. Thirty or forty of the gang attacked the Police Reserve Lines shooting the sentry. They were subsequently joined by the other two parties. They looted arms and ammunition and set fire to the buildings. The local officers got information of the outbreak while the Auxiliary Force armoury was being looted. They took immediate steps to save the other armouries and collect men; but before they could collect reinforcements sufficient to deal effectively with the insurgents the latter had decamped hastily to the hills. So long as they remained together the operations of rounding them up were of a military character. On 22nd there was an engagement at Jalalabad Hill in which ten of the insurgents were killed. After that they separated.

On 23rd April four youths detained at Feni on suspicion of being concerned in the raid had been taken into the station master's office to be searched. They open fire with revolvers and escaped after severely wounding the Sub-Inspector, two constables and two railway servants. At the end of August information was received that some of the leaders of the Chittagong raid were in hiding at Chandernagar in French Territory. Before day light on 2nd September with the full approval and ready co-operation of the Administrator of French Chandernagar a mixed force of Bengal and Calcutta Police under the command of the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, surrounded the house in which the absconders were living. Before a search could be made by the French authorities, the absconders sallied forth in an attempt to escape and fired on the police. The fire was returned and finally three of the absconders were captured, another being killed during the fight.

During the Chittagong raid the insurgents killed 8 persons and wounded 6. They had taken precautions to interrupt

communications by cutting telegraph wires, and tampering with the railway so as to cause a derailment.

On 16th May a bomb was thrown into a house occupied by the officer in charge of the Sibpur police-station in Howrah district. It exploded without doing any harm and two persons were tried and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. There were persistent rumours of attempts to emulate the Chittagong outrages. The cutting of telegraph wires in Munshiganj and elsewhere intensified the uneasiness caused by these rumours. A bomb was thrown at a ganja shop in Nalchiti in Bakarganj and shortly afterwards an attempt was made to burn the post office at the same place. At Gaibandha in Rangpur a bomb exploded in the main road behind a Sub-Inspector of Police and two constables who were passing and a few days later a similar bomb exploded in a house injuring a boy who was handling it. These events appear to have been mainly of local significance. The fear that extensive preparations were going on for the use of explosives received confirmation by the arrest in August of youth and a woman at Mymensingh with a box full of materials for making bombs.

The attempt to bomb the Commissioner of Police on the 25th of August at the corner of Dalhousie Square in Calcutta and the shooting of the Inspector-General of Police and the Superintendent of Police at Dacca on the 29th were grave proofs of the activity of the terrorist party, though the shooting at Dacca appears to have been the outcome of local incidents and not part of a widespread conspiracy. Sir Charles Tegart had a most fortunate escape; one bomb fell short of and one bomb fell beyond his car; one of his assailants was killed by his own bomb and another was wounded by the same bomb and captured. Mr. Lowman died of his injuries on 31st August and Mr. Hodson was very seriously injured. The assailant was recognised as a medical student named Benoy Bose, but made good his escape. The terrorists in Calcutta were also responsible for throwing a bomb at Jorabagan police-station on 26th August and another next morning at Eden Gardens police outpost. The first bomb seriously injured an old beggar woman and wounded two passersby. A Public Works Department chaprasi was very badly injured by the second bomb; another chaprasi and a servant were wounded less severely and a constable was slightly injured. Both bombs were of the same type as those thrown at the Commissioner of Police. The investigation into the Calcutta bomb cases disclosed a conspiracy for the purpose of violence and murder; 13 persons were put on trial before a tribunal and 8 were convicted. On 30th August two bombs were thrown in Mymensingh, one at the house of the Detective Department Inspector of Police and the other at the house of an Excise

Sub-Inspector. A vicious attack was made on Mr. J. N. Talukdar, I.C.S., Subdivisional Officer of Patuakhali, by a youth of 18. Two successful dacoities were committed in September by revolutionary gangs with the object of looting post office money. In the same month bombs were thrown at a police officer in Khulna police-station and at the excise shop at Lohagara in Jessore. A bomb and materials for bombs were found in Barisal. During a house search in Jessore a box of explosive materials exploded when being lowered from an attic. In October the Munsiffs Court at Feni was burnt down and a dacoity of a political nature occurred at Madaripur.

On 1st December an Inspector of Police was shot at Chandpur railway station outside the carriage occupied by the Inspector-General of Police. The assailants were captured later in the day with two loaded revolvers and a live bomb in their possession. They were both absconders in the Chittagong Armoury Raid Case.

On 8th December three young Bengalis smartly dressed in European clothes made their way openly into the office of the Inspector-General of Prisons in Writers' Buildings and shot Lieutenant-Colonel Simpson dead in his chair. They then went along the veranda shooting through office doors and at any officer who came out hearing the shots. Several officers had narrow escapes. The assassins finally entered the room of Mr. J. W. Nelson, Judicial Secretary and Legal Remembrancer. Mr. Nelson after receiving a bullet in the thigh engaged in a hand-to-hand struggle with one of his assailants and finally escaped from his room after being beaten on the head with the butt-ends of their revolvers by the other two. By this time armed police officers had reached the veranda and the assassins were unable to escape from the Judicial Secretary's room. One took poison and died, the other two shot themselves in the head. One is still alive. One of the three proved to be the medical student who had murdered Mr. Lowman.

The actors in this terrible outbreak of revolutionary crime were young men mostly students belonging to educated families of respectable or good social position. Deep-seated economic and social causes have rendered this class discontented. Emotional by nature Bengali youths are very susceptible to infection from the virus of terrorism. Intense efforts had been made by the nationalist leaders to capture the imagination of youth. Violent speeches, revolutionary books and pamphlets, seditious articles in the extremist press became the inspiration of many young men. They were fired to emulate the deeds of so-called heroes of revolutionary movements in Ireland, Russia and their own country

and became ready recruits to the party of violence. Conspiracies with the object of violence and assassination were formed at the centre and in the districts and at the beginning of the year were in an advanced state of preparation both as regards organisation and material. The year was chosen by the Congress leaders for a trial of strength with constituted authority. The non-violent civil disobedience movement rapidly and inevitably growing more and more violent produced a state of affairs in which the votaries of terrorism could not refrain from action.

In the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1925 Government possessed powers specialy designed for dealing with violent revolutionary crime. These powers were used with effect for the first few years of the life of the Act the term of which was 5 years ending on 23rd April 1930. As this period was drawing to its close, the powers which it provided were used more and more sparingly, political considerations outweighing the risks which were involved. The question of the re-enactment of the Act was a matter of anxious consideration and eventually it was decided to re-enact only that portion of it which provided for the speedy trial of certain offences, the provisions for preventive detention of suspected persons being repealed. As His Excellency stated in his address to the Legislative Council on the 25th March 1930: "After anxious thought my Government have decided not to propose, on the facts at present before them the continuance of that part of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act which grants to the Executive power of arrest and detention without trial. These powers were framed to deal with revolutionary organisations which have for their object violence and assassination. A revolutionary movement which sets these aims before itself is still in active operation in Bengal, though its more serious manifestations, in the shape of definite outrages, have not recently been prominent. But for the last three years it has been possible to keep the situation under control without fresh recourse to them. My Government have desired to do everything they could to seek, in co-operation with Indian opinion, a solution of our present difficulties, and they are therefore reluctant to invite the legislature to continue in existence powers, the occasion for the use of which we must all deplore. They sincerely trust that no emergency will necessitate their resumption, but they cannot conceal from themselves the possibility that such an emergency might again arise which might make it essential for them to be in possession of these powers. They have accordingly been in communication with the Government of India on this matter and I am authorised to state that the Governor-General in Council, and His Majesty's Government, if they are satisfied of the existence of such an emergency, will be prepared to approve the

necessary steps for securing these powers to my Government again."

Events immediately proved that the optimism of Government was not justified, and the powers laid down on 10th April were renewed by ordinance on the 19th as soon as news of the Chittagong outrage was received. This outrage immediately revealed a very grave situation. The attitude of extremist papers was significant, many being almost openly jubilant at the success of a band of Bengali youths against the forces of law and order. As soon as the ordinance was issued, action was taken against the leaders and prominent members of the various terrorist organisations, and many arrests were made. Still terrorist activity continued and public opinion gradually hardened, so that when Government decided that it was necessary to place the provisions of the ordinance in the statute book for a period of five years the Bill was passed in the Legislative Council by a majority of 61 to 15.

Muhammadans and Politics.

12. Dealing with the causes of the communal riots the Dacca Disturbance Enquiry Committee state in their report "since the re-partition and the inauguration of the first reforms a new permanent source of jealousy, i.e., the political one, has come into being and spread the infection of communal suspicion to the educated members of both communities. Until self-government began to come into sight the Muhammadans had nothing specially to fear from the political predominance of the Hindus. Now they recognise the necessity of fighting for their full share of representation and Government posts. The Hindus on the other hand recognise that the chief obstacle to the coming of home rule is their failure to obtain the trust and whole-hearted assistance of the Muhammadans. The Hindus consider that this non-co-operation is due to selfishness and an inability to put the interests of their country before the interests of their particular community. Distrust breeds distrust, and the Hindus instead of giving way to the Muhammadans on all non-vital points are still offending the Muhammadans by talk of revenge and threats of economic ruin."

The political cleavage between Muhammadan and Hindu on the vital issues of current politics had an important effect on the events of the year. It was illustrated on 25th May when a large meeting of Muhammadans was held in the Town Hall at which resolutions were passed protesting against the action of the Congress group in the Calcutta Corporation in systematically ignoring Moslems and in particular condemning the group for taking undue advantage of their majority in the Corporation in appropriating all offices in the Corporation and keeping the Moslems out of such positions as Alderman, Mayor or Deputy Mayor. The speeches were anti-Swarajist in tone and were received enthusiastically. Muhammadans generally kept themselves aloof from the civil disobedience

movement.) At a largely attended meeting of the District Moslem Association held at Barisal in June and presided over by Mr. Fazlul Huq, it was resolved that it was not conducive to the best interest of the Muhammadans for them to join the civil disobedience movement. Meetings condemning the movement were held in some districts of East Bengal. The Bengal Moslem Conference and the Calcutta Khilafat Conference held in Calcutta in August maintained the same attitude. This attitude of the Muhammadans towards the Congress modified and restricted the campaign of civil disobedience so that in areas where Muhammadans predominate the movement made little progress.

There is a tendency for Hindus and Muhammadans to range themselves in opposite camps on any contentious question. Prima facie there is no reason why the Primary Education Bill should be a communal issue—yet an attempt was made by Hindus in Council to make it one. The real cleavage was between tenants and landlords and the point at issue the payment and benefits to be made and received by each class. As practically all Muhammadans are cultivators and almost all landlords are Hindus this economic division roughly followed communal lines. Similar facts gave colour to the attempt to describe the Kishoreganj agrarian riots as communal. The interests of Hindus and Muhammadans clash at many points and recent events have stiffened the attitude of each as against the other. As the year closes the difficulty of reaching a compromise on the vital communal question is protracting the discussions of the Round Table Conference.

Communal riots at Dacca.

13. Unfortunately the celebration of independence day on 26th January in Dacca led to a serious communal clash. Processions were forbidden by the Magistrate except under licence and the Congress leaders decided to have no procession. Small unlicensed processions with revolutionary banners were organised by a students' association. Passing a mosque they gave provocation to some Muhammadans assembled for prayer. Altercation ensued, the mosque was overrun by the students and the Koran was deliberately torn up. Several people were injured in the riot which followed. The communal situation was acute for seven days. Several Muhammadans were stabbed, two fatally. This led to assaults and rioting by Muhammadans. Two Muhammadans were killed, 23 Hindus and 15 Muhammadans were injured. 125 Hindus and 124 Muhammadans were arrested.

The Muhammadans, not without reason, considered that in this communal clash the Hindus had been the aggressors and had it not been for the strenuous efforts of the Nawab in restraining the turbulent spirits of his community the trouble might have been worse. The disposal of the criminal cases kept feeling at tension

and the progress of the civil disobedience campaign helped to increase the tension. Hindus were annoyed at Muhammadan indifference to the civil disobedience campaign and the Muhammadans were annoyed at the partial success of the Congress efforts and also were inconvenienced by their methods. On 3rd May a hackney carriage driven by a Muhammadan knocked down a Hindu girl. This nearly precipitated an outburst. On 22nd the merest spark started a conflagration. Some Hindu boys playing with tops quarrelled with a Muhammadan boy. Bystanders joined in the quarrel and the crowds took up the quarrel on communal lines. Some houses were attacked and set on fire. Next day there were efforts at conciliation but a Muhammadan was stabbed fatally on the night of the 23rd May. The fanatical Muhammadans wanted to carry his body in procession and hold a special service at the Mosque in Chowk Bazar. The police forbade this. The body was made over to the relations for burial at the village of the deceased outside the town and four constables accompanied the party home, but in the afternoon the body was brought back in procession through the town. A serious communal outbreak was now certain. Hindu shopkeepers deserted their shops and bad characters seized the opportunity to start looting. In revenge the Hindus attacked the burial procession with brickbats and fierce rioting ensued. The Police arrived on the scene soon after but owing to the large area over which the rioting had spread the police had to be despatched in different directions to quell the numerous disturbances which had broken out. Rioting, murders, incendiarism and looting went on through the night and throughout Sunday 25th and Monday 26th. After the 26th the police began to regain control but could not prevent occasional outbreaks of rioting and attacks on houses. On 29th in dispersing a Hindu crowd at Rayer Bazar Mr. Cottam, the City Superintendent of Police, was attacked and had a narrow escape. The trouble spread outside the city of Dacca. The most serious occurrence was at Rohitpur where a mob of 500 to 700 Muhammadans surrounded the hat and the houses of all the permanent Hindu money-lenders on the 27th. The houses were looted of all money and valuables and in some cases set on fire. After 29th May the situation was greatly improved but isolated cases of stabbing occurred almost till the end of June and prevented the restoration of confidence and the resumption of the normal trade and activities of the town.

The Congress and the Hindu Mahasabha made political capital out of the riots. Charges were levelled at the local officers and the police of taking insufficient precautions beforehand and of inefficiency and of partiality to Muhammadans during the riots. A committee consisting of a Judge of the Patna High Court and the Member of the Board of Revenue, Bengal, was appointed to enquire

into the causes of the disturbances and into the measures taken to deal with them. The committee found that the causes of the riots were three-fold:—

(1) Ill feeling continuing from the events of January and the cases arising out of them.

(2) Economic causes—The Muhammadans are cultivators; are depressed by low jute prices, and are deeply indebted. The landlords and money-lenders to whom they owe money are Hindus.

(3) Political—Muhammadans fear the political predominance of the Hindus. With the approach of the realisation of self-government this fear and distrust became more intense and vital.

14. A remarkable outbreak of riot and pillage in the Kishoreganj subdivision of Mymensingh began on 11th July. The usual procedure was for a mob of anything from 100 to 1,000 men to gather at the house of a money-lender and demand from him all the documents in his possession. If he failed to produce them his house was looted and in some cases burnt. There was only one instance of personal violence, but a very grave one. A big money-lender had received news of the looting and had ordered two buses to take himself and his family away. Before he could get away the mob arrived at 7-30 a.m. on 12th July, destroyed the buses and proceeded to set fire to two of his out-buildings. He put up a stout defence from the main building with two guns. Two rioters are said to have been killed and eight wounded before his ammunition gave out. The building was then rushed; all the men were killed. Two women were wounded defending their husbands, and one has died later. The other women, about 30 in number, were not harmed but all the buildings were burnt and all property looted and destroyed. Of six houses of Hindu money-lenders in the village, all were looted and three were burnt as well. **Kishoreganj riots.**

Looting began on 11th July and went on over a wide area of Pakundia police-station on 12th, 13th and 14th. There were demonstrations on 15th and 16th but no attacks. In Hossanpur police-station and in some villages of Kishoreganj police-station there were attacks on 15th and 16th; about 35 villages were attacked. The Subdivisional Officer and the Subdivisional Police Officer did what they could with the small police force available. The Additional Superintendent of Police with reinforcements arrived on the 12th and started patrolling with the second officer. On the 13th evening the Deputy Inspector-General of Police arrived with 50 Eastern Frontier Rifles. The District Magistrate

arrived on the 14th. By the 15th the worst was over. It was necessary to fire on mobs on eight occasions on 13th and 14th, and vigorous patrolling was necessary for some time. The disturbance was remarkable for the suddenness with which it started, its severity during the few days it lasted, and the promptitude with which it was suppressed by a small force of police. Hindu and Congress newspapers described it as a communal outbreak. It differed from the usual communal clash in that it was not due to religious feeling. There is evidence that mischief-makers from outside the district had told the Muhammadan cultivators that Government was on the side of Muhammadans and would not interfere if they demanded back their bonds from money-lenders. These rumours appear to have gained wide credence. Similar false stories had been used to stir up Muhammadans at Rohitpur in Dacca during the May riots. The outbreak illustrates the cleavage between Muhammadan and Hindu which is economic and political as well as religious. In Kishoreganj the economic issue was predominant. On one side were the cultivators who are all Muhammadans and on the other side were the money-lenders who are almost all Hindus, though a few Muhammadan money-lenders also had their houses looted and their documents stolen. A spirit of violence and of disregard for law and order had been engendered by the civil disobedience movement; the cultivators were depressed by indebtedness and other economic causes and were ready to take the law into their own hands against the money-lenders.

Economic.

15. The year 1930 was one of world-wide trade depression. Bengal felt the effects of the general depression but was particularly hard hit by the depression in the jute trade. The price which the cultivator received for his jute in 1930 was the lowest for many years if not the lowest on record and was below the present cost of production. Most cultivators depend on the sale of their jute for ready money to buy necessaries and to discharge their monetary obligations to their creditors and their landlords. Money-lenders and zamindars had a bad year. Fortunately the rice crop was generally a good one and the price of rice ruled low. There was scarcity of money rather than of food. The disturbances in Kishoreganj are largely attributable to the economic conditions.

Increase in the number of dacoities.

16. During the latter half of the year there was a phenomenal increase in the number of dacoities which took place. This can be attributed to three causes. The civil disobedience movement set an example of violence and disregard for law. The police were busy dealing with the manifestations of this movement to the neglect of their ordinary duties and the rural police were largely disorganised. Lastly economic conditions were partly responsible. People on the verge of scarcity were tempted to resort to crime. One thousand

five hundred and eighty dacoities were reported in 1930. Last year's figure was 693. The highest previous figure was 896 in 1922.

17. The first volume of the Simon Commission Report was favourably received by European and Muhammadan papers but condemned by most of the Hindu papers. The Muhammadan papers looked only to the treatment of the communal question. The "Dainik Soltan" for example was of opinion that the Commissioners had realised that communal differences are due to the majority community's greed of power and hoped that the recommendations on the Hindu-Moslem question will be as fair as its diagnosis of the situation. The second volume was received with a chorus of disapproval from all but the European papers. This was only to be expected from the Nationalist papers, but there was also strong Muhammadan feeling that the Muhammadan majority in Bengal is being sacrificed to Muhammadan minorities in other provinces. Some Muhammadan papers were favourable at first but all soon veered to the popular and unfavourable view. **Simon Commission.**

Three resolutions dealing with the constitutional problem were discussed in the Legislative Council. The leader of the House intimated that the official members would take no part in the debate or in the voting. On 18th August a resolution that the recommendation of the Commission fell far short of Indian expectations was carried without a division. A more interesting debate came on the following day when two resolutions dealing with Dominion Status for India were discussed. The Muhammadan attitude was generally unsympathetic to the resolutions. Maulvi Abul Kasim, a member of the Provincial Committee which assisted the Simon Commission, stated bluntly, "God will not and man cannot give self-government to a nation that does not deserve it." The Simon Report found a defender in Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, who stated that the serious differences existing between the communities in India left no option to Sir John Simon and his colleagues. He advocated a preliminary Round Table Conference in India to compose these differences in order that India might present a united front at the Round Table Conference in London. On the next day a Muhammadan member was permitted by the President to move an amendment at short notice to one of the resolutions, and this was carried without a division. It recorded the opinion of the Council that full responsible government in the provinces as well as in the Central Government with proper safeguards of Moslem and all minority interests should be established without delay, so that India may be placed in the same status as the self-governing dominions of the British Commonwealth. The other resolution recommended that the Round Table Conference, in which the

Bengal representatives should be elected by the Legislative Council, be held on the basis of the immediate establishment of full Dominion Status for India with responsible government in the provinces as well as in the Central Government, so that India may be placed in the same status as the self-governing dominions of the British Commonwealth. This resolution was somewhat unexpectedly defeated by 41 votes to 35. The minority consisted of 31 Hindus, 3 Muhammadans and one Indian Christian, while the opponents of the resolution included 12 Europeans, 24 Muhammadans, 3 representatives of the depressed classes, including one nominated member, and 2 other nominated members.

Ministers.

18. Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy was appointed Minister in November in the vacancy caused by the resignation in August of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray who declared himself opposed to the Rural Primary Education Bill.

Although none of the Ministers was the leader of any well-defined party or group in the Council, they had the support of the majority of the Legislative Council throughout the year, and all attempts to defeat them failed.

Jails.

19. During the year jail administration was adversely affected by the political situation. As usual the treatment of prisoners and especially of political prisoners in jails was a favourite topic in the press and was the subject of many questions and of several budget motions in Council. The large number of prisoners convicted in connection with the civil disobedience campaign and consequent over-crowding in the jails put a heavy strain on the jail staff. There was a lack of trained warders to deal with the increased population and the administrative difficulties proved too much for some of the Superintendents of district jails who after a long service in medical work found themselves in charge of a very troublesome set of prisoners. The result is that discipline in jails was reduced to a very unsatisfactory state and became a grave source of anxiety.

There was a series of disturbances in jails throughout the province, none itself serious but symptomatic of the difficulty of maintaining discipline. The first one was in April in the Alipur Central Jail. In the course of the disturbance Mr. Subhas Chandra Basu was pushed over by the crowd of prisoners in his yard as they were forced back by the warder staff after trying to rush the gate and fell down striking the back of his head. He was afterwards found to be suffering from slight concussion of the brain. A feature of the disturbance was the eagerness with which the extremist press seized the opportunity to work up public feeling against the Government by manufacturing stories of the brutal way in which the prisoners had been treated, and the success with which they achieved this object. Throughout the day on the 24th

rumours were current that Subhas Basu had been beaten senseless and that J. M. Sen Gupta's position was grave and later that he had succumbed to his injuries. Other disturbances were caused by political prisoners in the Presidency Jail at Berhampore, Faridpur, Dum-Dum and Rajshahi. To relieve over-crowding over a thousand ordinary prisoners were released and additional jail accommodation has been provided at Dum-Dum, Berhampore and Hijli while a camp for detenus has been opened at Buxa Duars, thus relieving jails to some extent of this class of inmate, which has a specially bad effect on jail discipline.

Partly owing to the lenient classification of prisoners and partly owing to the laxity of discipline in jails the sentences inflicted on persons convicted of picketing under the Prevention of Intimidation Ordinance, 1930, were robbed of some of their deterrent effect. Many such prisoners on release publicly spoke of the comforts of prison life.

Legislative Council.

Sessions.

20. Only two sessions of the Legislative Council was held in the year 1930, comprising sittings on 33 days. Thirteen of these days were spent on the general discussion of the budget and in voting the demands; of the remaining 20 days, 7 were devoted to the transaction of non-official members' business and the rest to official business.

Early in the year in obedience to the Congress mandate all the Swarajist members except one resigned their seats and there were 40 bye-elections. The constituencies returned members of moderate views who had all taken their seats by the middle of March. The Council then contained the following groups:—

(1) Non-official European group led by Mr. W. L. Travers.

(2) People's group led by Mr. J. N. Basu.

(3) The Praja party led by Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul-Huq.

(4) Moslem League led by Maulvi Abdus Samad.

(5) Nationalist group led by Mr. B. C. Chatterjee.

These groups contained from 12 to 18 members each. The European group was a solid group of 16 members. The Nationalist group was not so solid and the other groups lacked cohesion. There was no Ministerial party.

Bengal Criminal Law Amendment (Part Continuance) Act, 1930.

21. The Council passed seven acts during the year—all introduced by Government. Three of them are of great importance. The Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1925 was due to expire in April 1930. The act contained two parts; one enabled the

executive to arrest and detain without trial members of revolutionary organisations which have for their object violence and assassination, the other provided for the speedy trial of certain offences. Government decided that it was necessary to retain only the provisions for speedy trial and the Bengal Criminal Law (Part Continuance) Bill was prepared. It repealed the preventive sections of the Act of 1925 and retained the rest for 5 years. The introduction of the Bill was opposed by the leader of the People's group on the ground that it gave no opportunity to amend the text of those portions of the act which were being continued. The leader of the Nationalist groups stated that his party would not accept the responsibility of passing repressive laws. When the motion for leave to introduce the Bill was carried the opposition walked out led by Mr. Banerji. The Bill was then passed without a division.

The Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930.

The sections of the Act of 1925 empowering the executive to arrest and detain members of revolutionary organisations which had for their object violence and assassination, which had been repealed by the above Act and revived in the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance of 19th April 1930, were embodied in a Bill and put before Council in August. The opposition to the Bill was half-hearted. Two dilatory motions were defeated by large majorities. The Bill was carried by 61 votes to 15.

Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act, 1930.

Hindu feeling in the house was almost entirely against the Primary Education Bill; the majority of the Muhammadans were determined to brook no delay in having the measure placed on the statute book; the leader of the European group signified the support of his party to the Bill. Some stir was caused during the discussion of a motion to refer the Bill to a select committee when Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray resigned his position as Minister and took his seat among the opposition benches as a protest against the persistence of his colleagues in proceeding with the Bill despite the opposition of the majority of Hindu members. The Hindus finding themselves in a minority walked out on the ground that they and especially the new members were being denied an opportunity for examining the Bill. Next day opposition to the Bill took the form of a motion for the adjournment of the House to consider the situation caused by the continuance in office by the two Ministers after the resignation of their colleague. The motion was disallowed by His Excellency the Governor as not being the primary concern of the local Government. The Hindus then left the House. The Bill was rapidly disposed of in two sittings and was passed on 26th August.

The other four acts were of minor importance and met with no opposition in Council.

Non-official Bills.

22. Two private Bills lapsed when the members resigned. The Bill of Dr. Naresh Chandra Sen Gupta to exclude certain areas from the Municipal limits of Calcutta was introduced on 15th August but was not further proceeded with in view of the fact that the Government appointed a committee to investigate the matter and to report on the steps necessary for giving relief to the Garden Reach area. Two other private Bills to amend the Calcutta Municipal Act and the Bengal Municipal Act were introduced in August.

Questions.

23. Notices of 727 questions were received. Of these 584 were actually put and answered, 83 were disallowed, 5 withdrawn and 55 remained unanswered. Besides these there were a number of short notice questions and supplementary questions.

Resolutions.

24. One hundred and sixty-five resolutions on matters of general public interest were tabled for discussion, many of them identical. Twenty-seven topics disposing of a much greater number of resolutions were actually discussed. A resolution recommending the provision of Rs. 26,00,000 for the Bhairab drainage scheme was carried against Government. Another resolution carried against Government recommended a committee to enquire into the conditions of service of the process-serving establishment. Amongst all the resolutions not excepting those dealing with constitutional reforms that which aroused the greatest interest in the House was one which recommended the abolition of the right of pre-emption, to reduce landlord's transfer fee to 2 per cent. and to prevent landlords enhancing rent so long as their own land revenue remains fixed. This topic was keenly debated for three days. Other topics of public interest which were discussed in resolutions were the scheme for partition of Mymensingh, measures to stop prostitution in melas, removal of the sex disqualification for election to the Legislative Council, introduction of the ballot system of voting in local and Union Boards, an enquiry into alleged police atrocities.

Demands for grants.

25. In dealing with the main demands for grants the Council had before them an agenda of 523 motions and took 11 days to dispose of them. There was no serious attempt to make cuts of a drastic character in any demand members being content generally to criticise policy and details of administration by means of token cuts. Government were defeated on only 4 occasions, all on token cuts. A motion to draw attention to the failure of the Irrigation Department to tackle the problems of the dead and dying rivers in West Bengal and of water-hyacinth in Eastern Bengal resulted in a token cut. The Civil Secretariat demand was

reduced by Re. 1 to draw attention to popular discontent at the policy of Government in launching prosecutions for even trivial political offences. A discussion on the sufferings of prisoners in general and political prisoners in particular produced a token cut in the Jails demand. A motion drawing attention to the absence of provision for a sanatorium for tuberculosis patients resulted in a token cut in the demand for Medical establishment and a defeat of the Minister in charge of that department.

The budget debates were on a higher level than last year. There was less captiousness and rancour and the speakers aimed more at constructive than destructive criticism.

The attacks on the police were mild compared with those of previous years. The European sergeants were left unmolested but an attack was directed against the ordinary "Paharawala" who was accused of habitual discourtesy in his dealings with the public, especially Indians. Another charge by innuendo was made against Bengali policemen in general, it being insinuated that they were cowardly and disloyal. This charge was indignantly repudiated by the Hon'ble Member in charge of Police who paid a warm tribute to the courage of the Bengalis in the Police Force.

In addition to the annual demands the Council granted some important supplementary or additional demands made by Government. The most important were Rs. 10,43,500 to meet essential expenditure on Jails and Rs. 8,78,000 to meet expenditure on Police in connection with the civil disobedience and similar movements. Motions for token cuts raised discussions about treatment of prisoners in jails, repressive policy of Government and failure of the police to preserve the public peace, excesses committed on the public in April, May, June and July, but all the motions were defeated.

Ministers and motions of no confidence against them.

26. Threatened motions of no-confidence in the Ministers were in the air continuously throughout the earlier session. On the demands for grants for Ministers on the 20th March, the following three motions were debated:—

(1) for total refusal,

(2) for a cut of Rs. 64,000, and

(3) for a cut of Rs. 5.

The first raised the old question of "Dyarchy" and was defeated without a division.

The second was moved to advocate a reduction in the scale of the salary paid to Ministers. This was defeated by 87 votes to 13.

The third motion—a token cut—was moved to press the view that as the present ministry was chosen from an unrepresentative house, His Excellency should, now that the Council was composed of persons willing to work the constitution, choose Ministers who commanded the confidence of the majority of the Council. The mover disclaimed any intention to criticise the Ministry or to condemn it from any other point of view. On receiving an assurance from the Chief Secretary that a copy of the debate on the motion would be laid before His Excellency the Governor, the motion was withdrawn. Subsequently there were attempts, one of which was successful, to defeat the Ministers by means of token cuts in their respective Departments as follows:—

(1) On the 27th March, the Minister in the Medical Department was defeated on a token cut by 48 votes to 43. In this case there is no doubt that the defeat of the Minister was premeditated and was made possible by the withdrawal of the support of the European group who were displeased with the policy of the Ministry in the Medical Department of displacing European officers by Indians in the higher posts of the Medical establishment.

(2) On the 27th March, the defeat of the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture was narrowly averted by 45 votes to 41 on a token cut "to draw attention to the failure of the Agricultural Department to tackle the problems of agriculture and rural welfare in improving the material and economic condition of the people."

Eventually on the 31st March, Babu Jitendralal Banerji gave notice of no-confidence motions against all the three Ministers. When the Council met on the 1st April, and the time came for the mover to ask for the "leave" of the House, he was not in his seat. It may safely be presumed that the member had not the support of 46 members.

When in August Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray resigned over the Primary Education Bill, an attempt was made to enforce joint responsibility of Ministers in the circumstances already described.

Industrial Disputes.

27. During 1930, there was a noticeable decrease in the number of disputes, and failure followed most of the disputes that arose. The general depression in trade, coupled with declining prices in foodstuffs, was mainly responsible for this.

In the first quarter of the year, an attempt was made by the Bengal Jute Workers Union to start a general strike. There was some cessation of work in the Tittaghur area, but the trouble did not spread. The general strike of 1929 was too recent, and there was general recognition that the jute manufacturing industry was not enjoying the same prosperity as in the last few years. There was also some agitation among transport workers in the earlier part of the year, but no cessation of work followed.

Finance in 1929-30.

Budget.

28. The year 1929-30 opened actually with a balance of Rs. 2,23,09,000 against the estimated opening balance of Rs. 2,00,90,000. This improvement was due to the fact that the revenue for 1928-29 proved better by Rs. 7¼ lakhs and the expenditure fell short of the revised estimate by 14¾ lakhs. The original estimate for receipts in 1929-30 on revenue account was Rs. 11,65,63,000 and that for expenditure was Rs. 11,73,78,000, an anticipated excess in expenditure charged to revenue of Rs. 8,15,000. In the budget estimate it was found possible to make a provision of about Rs. one lakh only for schemes involving expenditure of a recurring nature with an ultimate liability of about Rs. 2 lakhs a year. These schemes were ones to which Government were either already committed or which were of such a nature that they could not be avoided or postponed. A provision of Rs. 40 lakhs was made for expenditure of a non-recurring character, of which Rs. 10 lakhs were provided for the commutation of pensions of officers of all departments and the remaining Rs. 30 lakhs were distributed through the several spheres of Government activity, the Reserved and Transferred sides sharing about equally.

The estimated closing balance for the year 1929-30 was Rs. 1,66,65,000, but the actual closing balance was Rs. 1,94,78,000, i.e., it was better by Rs. 28,13,000. This larger closing balance was mainly due to the increase of Rs. 22,19,000 in the actual opening balance of the year as stated above. The balance of the difference is due to the fact that while the actual receipts fell short of anticipations by Rs. 42,78,000, the actual expenditure was less by Rs. 48,72,000 than originally estimated.

ctual revenue.

29. The original estimate for 1929-30 on revenue account was Rs. 11,65,63,000, against which the revised estimate was placed at Rs. 11,38,46,000, while the actual collections turned out to be Rs. 11,35,87,000; on the whole the revised estimate proved fairly accurate but compared with the original estimate there

was a fall of revenue to the extent of Rs. 29,76,000. This fall mainly occurred under the heads "Stamps" and "Registration" and the factor affecting them both was the amended Bengal Tenancy Act; in almost every district fewer documents were executed and registered in respect of property, especially in land, with a consequent fall in revenue from general stamps and registration fees. Dull trade conditions also to some extent influenced the decline.

Outside the revenue account, against the original budget estimate of Rs. 55,25,000 the actual receipts amounted to Rs. 42,23,000. This was mainly due to the decision to borrow Rs. 8 lakhs less than was originally estimated for expenditure on schemes financed from borrowed money, the progress being below expectations.

Actual expenditure.

30. The original estimate for expenditure during 1929-30 under the several service heads was Rs. 11,73,78,000; in addition to this, the Legislative Council passed supplementary demands placed before it from time to time during the course of the year, amounting to Rs. 8,70,000, the total amount thus available for expenditure was therefore Rs. 11,82,48,000; against this the revised estimate was placed at Rs. 11,43,56,000 and the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 11,33,49,000. The very large savings occurred mainly under the head "22—General Administration" and "9—Registration" due to the non-utilisation in full of the provision for transmission of landlords' fees under the amended Tenancy Act as already mentioned, while smaller expenditure under "Civil Works," "Medical," "Police" and "Administration of Justice" account for most of the balance. Considerable savings also accrued under capital works of the Irrigation and Public Works Departments, as the progress of work for the Damodar Canal Project and the New Council Chamber was not as rapid as was hoped.

Control of expenditure.

31. The system of the control of expenditure introduced with a view to closer "watching of expenditure" against sanctioned grants by the maintenance of a uniform system in the classification of expenditure by disbursing officers and the Accountant-General, Bengal, was followed during the year.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

Physical features of the country, area, climate and chief staples.
Historical summary.
Forms of Administration.
Character of Land Tenures and system of Surveys and Settlement.
Civil Divisions of British Territory.
Details of the last census.

See—

General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, pages 1-141.

Changes in Administration.

Owing to the impossibility of finding in the Legislative Council a ministry with any hope of stability the Bengal Legislative Council was dissolved by His Excellency the Governor on the 22nd April 1929.

2. After the general election Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Kazi Golam Mohiuddin Faroqui and Maulvi Khwaja Nazim-ud-din, C.I.E., were appointed to be Ministers for the administration of Transferred Subjects in the Presidency of Bengal with effect from the 18th December 1929. Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray however, resigned his office from the 14th August 1930 and the remaining two Ministers carried on the administration of all the Transferred Departments.

3. The Hon'ble Sir A. N. Moberly, C.I.E., I.C.S., having resigned his office of Member, Executive Council, the Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. Prentice, C.I.E., I.C.S., was appointed to be a temporary Member in his place from the 28th April 1930. He succeeded as a permanent Member on 27th May 1930.

4. The Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr, C.I.E., I.C.S., was appointed to be the Vice-President of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bengal on the 29th May 1930, vice the Hon'ble Sir A. N. Moberly, C.I.E., I.C.S., resigned.

5. His Excellency Sir Stanley Jackson, P.C., G.C.I.E., Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal was granted leave for four months from the 6th June 1930 and His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Governor of Bihar and Orissa was appointed to act in his place.

6. The Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, KT., C.I.E., Member of the Bengal Executive Council having been deputed on special duty in London in connection with the Indian Round Table Conference, Mr. Bepin Behari Ghosh, retired judge of the High Court, Calcutta, was appointed to be a temporary Member in his place with effect from the 12th October 1930.

Relations with the Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

(a) COOCH BEHAR.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1929-30.]

General.

7. Area—1,318 sq. miles, population 592,489; chief products—rice, jute, tobacco and mustard seed; military force—297 men; present Maharaja—His Highness Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.

Political Agent.

8. During the year under review Mr. W. H. Nelson, I.C.S., Political Agent, went on leave with effect from the 6th March 1930 and Mr. R. N. Reid, I.C.S., took over charge of the Agency.

Financial.

9. The actual revenue and expenditure of the State amounted to Rs. 41,05,037 and Rs. 39,17,412 against Rs. 41,66,139 and Rs. 43,07,326 respectively of the previous year. There was a substantial surplus.

State Railway.

10. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway amounted to Rs. 4,77,986 and the net earnings to Rs. 2,58,055 showing a decrease in the earnings as compared with last year's figures. The percentage of working expenses over gross earnings was 46·01 against 45·87 in the preceding year.

Crops and condition of the people.

11. The total rainfall during the year was 121·63 inches against 132·80 inches in the previous year. The price of common rice ranged between Rs. 6 to Rs. 7 per maund during the year. The area under jute cultivation was 30,100 acres against 32,000 acres in the previous year. The cultivators could not derive the anticipated benefit from the crop owing to a low market price. The outturn of tobacco and mustard seed was disappointing. The market price of tobacco was unusally low.

Crime.

12. The total number of cases reported during the year was 2,974 against 2,902 in the previous year showing an increase of 72 cases. Under section 157 (*b*) of the Criminal Procedure Code, the police refused investigation in 270 cases during the year against 309 in the previous year. Seventy-seven appeals were preferred in 44 cases of which orders were confirmed, in 11 cases

appeals were rejected, in 7 cases orders were modified, in 14 cases orders were reversed and 1 case remained pending at the end of the year.

Public health.

13. The health of the people was generally good except for stray cases of cholera and small-pox.

Education.

14. The number of Higher English Schools was 5 as in the previous year. The number of primary schools rose from 298 to 300. The number of middle English and middle vernacular schools fell from 52 to 50. The average daily attendance was 9,825 against 9,885 in the preceding year. The number of students in the Victoria College showed an increase and the highest number on the rolls was 278 against 236 in the previous year. The aggregate expenditure on primary and secondary schools amounted to Rs. 94,720 as against Rs. 92,109 last year. The total expenditure incurred by the State for Primary and Secondary education was Rs. 56,042 against Rs. 54,826 in the preceding year.

(*b*) TRIPURA.

[Annual Administration Report of the Tripura State for the year 1929-30.]

General.

15. Area—4,116 square miles; population—3,04,437; Military force—403; the first Tripura Bir Company has been recognised by the Government of India as an "A" class Unit of Indian States Forces; present Maharaja—His Highness Maharaja Manikya Bir Bikram Kishore Deb Barman Bahadur.

Political Agent.

16. Mr. F. W. Robertson, I.C.S., continued as Political Agent up to the 5th March 1930 when he was succeeded by Mr. C. G. B. Stevens, I.C.S.

Financial.

17. The gross revenue based on the average of the previous five years was Rs. 20,05,191 from the State and Rs. 12,07,728 from the zamindaries, against Rs. 19,30,930 and Rs. 11,99,637, respectively in the preceding year. The total receipts from all sources including deposits, loans, as well as law charges and advances recovered amounted to Rs. 34,37,701 against Rs. 33,05,772 in the previous year with the opening balance of Rs. 9,60,673 the total sum available for expenditure was Rs. 43,98,374 as against Rs. 43,29,437 in the preceding year. The actual income of the State and zamindaries, including deposits and loans, was Rs. 30,09,502 against Rs. 31,02,911 of the previous year. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 34,23,952 against Rs. 33,68,764 in the previous year. The closing balance at the end of the year under review was Rs. 9,74,422 against Rs. 9,60,673 of the previous year.

Chap. I. PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Crops and condition of the people.

18. The average rainfall of the year was 106·01 against 87·67 in the previous year. The quinquennial average was 98·13. The distribution was uneven. Five Divisions of the State, viz., Kailashahar, Sonamura, Dharmanagar, Udaipur and Amarpur suffered from heavy floods during the early rainy months and all early crops were entirely lost. The outturn of tea as compared with the previous year was not unsatisfactory. The prices of food grains were similar to those in the neighbouring British districts. The people were generally affected by the world wide economic depression, and the floods of the year made the situation no better.

Public Health.

19. There was an outbreak of cholera in some parts of the State and 152 deaths out of 283 attacks were reported most of these deaths occurring in places where inoculation could not be resorted to in time. Small-pox also broke out in some parts of the State. 165 persons were attacked and 12 died as against 283 and 65, respectively, in the previous year.

Crime.

20. The total number of cases reported to the police was 1,295 against 1,336 in the previous year. The number of persons arrested was 772 out of which 718 were sent up for trial. Recovery of stolen property remains still unsatisfactory, the percentage being 19·74 against 21·8 of the previous year.

Education.

21. Including five high English schools and one branch high English school the total number of schools during the year was 170 against 168 in the previous year. The number of pupils was 7,401 against 7,345 excluding 241 pupils reading in private institutions which numbered 11, as against 52 students in 2 private institutions in the previous year. The total expenditure on education amounted to Rs. 1,41,110 against 1,33,106 in the previous year.

Condition of the People.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1929-30.]

22. The year under report was not entirely free from natural calamities. In Tippera a drought in April was followed by deluges in May and June which caused the inundation of a large portion of the Brahmanbaria subdivision resulting in distress. To relieve the distress relief works were opened and agricultural loans to the extent of 4½ lakhs had to be given besides Rs. 20,000 as gratuitous relief. After heavy rains in August there were floods on the Cossye and Selye in Midnapore and 240 square miles chiefly in the Ghatal subdivision were inundated. Relief Committees composed of officials and non-officials did good work in relieving the distress. In addition to Rs. 35,861 advanced as agricultural loans Rs. 33,500 was distributed in relief of which Government

contributed Rs. 20,000. Floods in August in Burrir Char in Hatiya in Noakhali carried away many houses and cattle.

23. Weather conditions were generally favourable in Western Bengal but unfavourable in most of the districts in Northern Bengal and in the Chittagong Division. The outturn of the jute, tea and aus crops was on the whole satisfactory but winter paddy proved unsatisfactory in some areas for various reasons.

24. The wages of skilled and unskilled labour continued to rule high and the labouring classes fared comparatively well. Though the prosperity of the large labour population of the mill areas in the 24-Parganas district received a temporary set-back from wide spread strikes, 80 lakhs of rupees were remitted through Post-offices from the mill areas in the Barrackpore subdivision. The agriculturists were however affected by the fall in the price of jute and food crops generally, and their indebtedness increased particularly for the reason that the cultivators recklessly borrowed money at a very high rate of interest in order to marry their children before the Sarda Act came into operation.

25. Public health on the whole was good but unsatisfactory in the Burdwan division and the Nadia district. Government, the District Boards and the Union Boards did much to remove the scarcity of good drinking water by excavating tanks and sinking tube-wells.

26. Cholera and small-pox became epidemic in some places. Kala-azar and Beriberi were prevalent in several districts. It is however satisfactory to note that the value of anti-cholera inoculation and of vaccination are now appreciated even in remote villages, and that the people are gradually becoming alive to their duties in regard to the preservation of public health.

27. Economic conditions did not materially alter during the year under report and there was no appreciable improvement in the coal industry in the Burdwan district. The production of tea in the districts of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri was a little greater than in the previous year but the prices were low. The tea industry maintained its prosperity in Chittagong. Although the crop was good, the market being dull, jute could not be sold at economic prices and there was accumulation of stocks in many places. Owing to frequent strikes, the jute and cotton mills in Hooghly and the 24-Parganas did not do so well as in the previous year.

28. Modern methods of cultivation by motor tractors and steel ploughs were attended with success in the Rajshahi Division. Internal communication in many districts has been facilitated by the rapid growth of motor traffic, though roads have deteriorated in consequence.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realisation of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1929-30.]

Total collection.

29. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 101,021 against 100,795 in the previous year. Of these 93,695 were permanently settled estates, 4,433 temporarily settled estates and 2,893 estates under direct management of Government. The net increase of 226 estates was due to partition and to the creation of new estates by resumption and settlement. The current demand was Rs. 2,99,87,395 against Rs. 2,97,10,746 in the preceding year. The increase of Rs. 2,76,649 in the demand was due to settlement of newly accreted lands, to resettlement of temporarily settled estates on the termination of the existing leases, and also to the progressive increase of demand in Government estates. The total realisable demand including arrears of Rs. 22,62,447 was Rs. 3,22,49,842, out of which the amount collected was Rs. 2,90,51,878 being 90·08 per cent. of the total and 96·88 per cent. of the current demand against 92·80 and 98·99 respectively in the previous year. The total remissions amounted to Rs. 71,175 against Rs. 58,831 in the previous year. The total outstanding balances amounted to Rs. 31,26,789 or 9·7 per cent. of the total demand. The major portion of the balance is in process of recovery.

Miscellaneous revenue.

30. The total collections of miscellaneous revenue amounted to Rs. 9·47 lakhs against Rs. 9·22 lakhs in the preceding year. The increase was chiefly under the heads "Value of revenue abated," "Registration fees," "Fees under the Bengal Tenancy Act" and "Fees under Act XI of 1859." There was, however, decrease under the head "Other receipts."

Redemption of land revenue.

31. The total number of petty estates and holdings in which the land revenue was redeemed during the year under review was 330 against 283 in the preceding year. The total amount of land revenue redeemed was Rs. 434 and the total price realised was Rs. 12,876, the corresponding figures of the preceding year being Rs. 416 and Rs. 12,431 respectively. The total revenue redeemed up to date comes to Rs. 37,424 for which Rs. 9,39,049 has been realised as redemption money.

Coercive measures: (a) Sale Law.

32. The number of defaults and of sales during the year was 14,205 and 1,342 respectively as against 17,182 and 1,115 respectively in the preceding year. The number of exemptions

Chap. II. ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

from sale under section 18, including those for petty arrears was 12,384 or 87·18 per cent. of the total number of defaults. Of the total number of defaults only 9·44 per cent. actually came to sale.

(b) Certificates.

33. The total number of certificate cases instituted during the year other than those for cases was 94,344 against 77,552 in the preceding year. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of to the total number for disposal was 56·31 against 71·86 in the previous year. In the majority of cases payments were made on issue of notices or on attachment of property. Actual sale was necessary in 3,797 cases or 4·7 per cent. of the total number of cases (80,243) disposed of during the year.

Other Revenue Works.

Land Registration.

34. The number of proprietary interests entered in the land registration registers was 1,050,395 at the beginning of the year as against 1,058,177 at its close.

Partition.

35. There were 240 partition cases pending at the close of the preceding year, and 35 cases were instituted during the year under report, and 31 cases were disposed of. Special officers were employed exclusively on partition work throughout the year in the districts of Mymensingh and Tippera. Estates Partition Funds exist only in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh. The incidence of the cost per acre of the area under partition during the year was 10 annas and 2 pies in Dacca and Re 1-0-3 in Mymensingh.

Land acquisition.

36. The total area acquired for Government purposes, including State Railways and other railways provided with land free of cost by Government, was 1,663·64 acres at a cost of Rs. 14,91,417 as against 968·93 acres at a cost of Rs. 4,67,423 in the previous year. The area acquired for all other purposes was 788·60 acres at a cost of Rs. 77,50,731 as compared with 509·71 acres at a cost of Rs. 20,40,221 in the previous year.

Loans: Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts.

37. The outstanding balance of the Land Improvement Loans at the beginning of the year was Rs. 2,03,148 and Rs. 28,190 was advanced during the year. The total amount due for collection was Rs. 72,085 and Rs. 52,699 was realised.

The outstanding balance of the agricultural loans at the commencement of the year was Rs. 12,39,802 and Rs. 5,72,099 was advanced during the year. The total amount due for collection was Rs. 10,06,544 and Rs. 6,77,047 was realised.

Surveys.

[Report on the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1929.]

Outturn of the year.

38. The main traverse programme consisted of 676 square miles in Burdwan and 695 square miles in Malda. The area traversed in Burdwan was very unhealthy especially at the beginning of the field season when nearly half of the staff fell ill and one sub-surveyor died causing dislocation of work for about three weeks.

The first batch of 16th sheets of A block of Malda district, prepared and supplied by the Air Survey Company, having proved inaccurate and unsuitable the start of the settlement programme in the district had to be postponed till next year and Government cancelled the agreement with the Air Survey Company. Consequently the Survey Department had to revert to the ordinary methods of survey and in order not to delay the cadastral programme the major portion of the survey staff was removed from Burdwan district to Malda late in February. The work was pushed through and completed by the end of June. The area traversed was the northern half of the district and contained a large number of beels which presented many difficulties.

Under a new contract executed in April 1929 the Air Survey Company surveyed an area of about 104 square miles in thanas Bamangola and Habibpur in Malda by improved methods. The maps of the area supplied were found to be satisfactory.

In the districts of Murshidabad, Noakhali, Bakarganj, Faridpur, Tippera an area of about 255 square miles was surveyed during the year.

Of the miscellaneous work done by the survey section, the detailed survey of B and C block of the Garden Reach Municipality on 73 sheets was carried out. Minor surveys were also taken up in the district of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling during the year.

Land Records and Settlement.

[Annual report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Bengal for the year ending 30th September 1929.]

General.

39. Survey and settlement operations were conducted in 15 districts. The total area for which a record-of-rights has now been completed is 51,308 square miles out of the total area of 65,304 square miles to which the Bengal Tenancy Act applies.

Major settlements.

40. Major settlement operations were conducted in 7 districts. The operations in the 24-Parganas and in Burdwan were in full swing, while those in Murshidabad-Birbhum and Pabna-Bogra and the revisional settlement in Chittagong are in their closing stages. The operation in Khulna which was started in 1921 was closed and that in Malda commenced during the year.

Khulna.

41. In the Khulna Settlement which was closed during the year all the pending resumption proceedings and case work were completed. Rs. 11,941 was recovered during the year from the landlords and tenants towards their share of survey and settlement cost, bringing the total of survey and settlement cost recovered at Rs. 16,20,925 against the total estimated demand of Rs. 16,25,797.

Pabna-Bogra.

42. In the Pabna-Bogra Settlement, the work was completed except for the disposal of a few resumption proceedings and the (1) printing and final publication, (2) case work and (3) recovery of cost in respect of, and that connected with, the affected areas. Resumption proceedings on the rivers Bangali and Manas in police-stations Dhunot and Sariakandi in the district of Bogra were confirmed during the year by the Board. Fair rent was settled in respect of 74,881 tenancies and all the pending cases under sections 106 and 115B, Bengal Tenancy Act, were disposed of. Against the computed demand of Rs. 22,04,539 proposed to be recovered from landlords and tenants as their share of cost of the survey and settlement operations, Rs. 21,86,389 was realised up to the close of the year and Rs. 7,375-12 was written off as irrecoverable.

Murshidabad-Birbhum.

43. In the Murshidabad-Birbhum Settlement, the programme for the year mainly consisted of (*i*) revisional work in the diara block which was previously surveyed along with the Rajshahi District Settlement, (*ii*) the revision of land revenue and resumption of unassessed areas, (*iii*) the recovery of survey and settlement costs and (*iv*) case work.

The diara block which was previously surveyed by the Rajshahi Settlement, comprising 47 villages had to be taken up for revision. Changes in possession were discovered in 60 per cent. of the records of the tenancies, while in char areas cultivation had extended and further accretion had formed. The new lands being very fertile and valuable, disputes regarding possession had been frequent and in several cases fair rents previously settled had been altered, contrary to section 113 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. As a result, the revision of the previously framed records was considered necessary and was taken up. The area was entirely completed up to the stage of attestation and

727 cases under section 103A, Bengal Tenancy Act, were disposed of out of a total of 904.

Out of the 79 estates taken up for revision of land revenue, 53 had been completed previously and 10 were completed during the year. As a result of the revision, the total annual revenue derived from the 63 estates rose from Rs. 29,274 to Rs. 47,300. During the year, proceedings for the resumption of alluvial accretions on the Bhagirathi in thanas Jiaganj, Suti, Sagardighi and Beldanga were confirmed by the Board. The annual revenue of the new estates confirmed by the Board of Revenue up to the year under report amounts to Rs. 10,178. The number of interests printed was 493,418, bringing the performance to date to 1,562,085 interests against the programme of 1,730,000 interests for the settlement. A sum of Rs. 10,70,705 was recovered during the year from landlords and tenants as their share of cost of survey and settlement operations. The total recovery effected to date amounted to Rs. 20,16,845. There were 2 cases of embezzlement during the year, in one of which a Gurkha guard attached to a recovery camp absconded with Rs. 1,300 for which he has been criminally prosecuted; in the other case the amount involved was small and the defalcation was mainly due to the slackness of control of the recovery staff; those at fault have been departmentally dealt with. Case work was confined to Rampurhat subdivision in the district of Birbhum. The total number of cases disposed of during the year came to 12,799 comprising 27,466 tenancies for which fair rents were settled under section 105 and 1,367 under section 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Many of the cases were hotly contested and a large number of them related either to claims to hold the tenancies rent free or to hold at fixed rent or rate of rent.

24-Parganas.

44. There was no area cadastrally surveyed this year, but the completion of the field-to-field check of 655,414 plots comprised in 351 square miles surveyed in the previous year brought the cadastral programme of the 24-Parganas Settlement to its close. Local check of the draft record-of-rights covering 400 square miles with 288,049 interests was also completed during the year. At the time of the attestation of the draft records, 42,823 disputes were filed and decided. Of them, half the number related to claims to hold the tenancies at fixed rent or rate of rent. Resettlement of land revenue was completed in respect of 11 estates. During the year the Board reaffirmed its decision that the lessees under the Sunderbans Large Capitalist Rules of 1879 were entitled to successive renewals of settlement. As a result of the resettlement of land revenue already made, the revenue rose from Rs. 66,785 to Rs. 199,632. Resumption proceedings under Act IX of 1847 were drawn up in respect of accretions to the

Chap. II. ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

rivers Jamuna, Ichhamati and Bidyadhari in the police-stations included in the first year's programme. The revenue now to be derived from the estates created in 6 of the proceedings which have since been completed amounts to Rs. 6,877 a year. During the year Rs. 7,20,880 was also realised as survey and settlement cost from landlords and tenants. Fair rent of 4,653 tenancies were settled during the year and 1,076 cases decided under section 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. The financial position of the settlement continued to be satisfactory and the total saving up to date was a little over Rs. 5,80,000 as compared with the inception estimates.

Chittagong.

45. In Chittagong Revisional Settlement the work has reached the winding up stages of the last block. The programme consists of (1) attestation of draft records of 10 square miles with 26,912 interests in the Chittagong town and its neighbourhood, (2) disposal of 10,382 objections under section 103A, (3) proceeding under section 104 for settlement of rent in the khas mahal estates, (4) printing and (5) recovery of survey and settlement costs. Programmes under (1) and (2) were fully completed and that under (3) was practically completed except in regard to some objections under section 104E. Out of the computed demand of Rs. 1,58,495 a sum of Rs. 1,09,882 was recovered; the balance was due mainly from a few big landlords who were allowed to pay in instalments.

Burdwan.

46. The Burdwan Settlement which started in 1927-28 was in its second year of existence. The cadastral survey, preparation of preliminary draft record-of-rights and field-to-field check of B block area of the operation comprised in 600 square miles, was fully completed. The total number of plots and interests in this area came to 1,160,000 and 400,000 respectively. The draft record-of-rights of the previous year's cadastrally surveyed area of 738 square miles was checked locally in the presence of landlords and tenants with the exception of only 25 square miles left over for the next year. The number of interests attested came to 325,000. Out of 23,877 objections under section 103A of the Bengal Tenancy Act filed during the year, 22,666 were disposed of. Over half the number of the objections related to status. Burdwan town having proved unhealthy, Government have accepted the proposal to locate the headquarters of this settlement at Chinsura, the sadar station of the district of Hooghly.

Malda.

47. The survey and settlement operation of the district was taken up during the year. An agreement was entered into with the Indian Air Survey and Transport Limited for survey from air of 802 square miles of district Malda, comprising of A block of

this settlement. The maps produced by them were however found to be inaccurate and unworkable and the contract with the Company had accordingly to be cancelled and the ordinary method of survey resorted to. In the meantime, however, the Air Survey Company succeeded in perfecting and evolving a fresh method of rectifying their air photographs to scale, to test which a new contract was made with them in respect of an experimental area of 130 square miles. One hundred and five square miles of this area with 92,000 plots and 31,000 interests were completed in preliminary record writing which was done on photographs supplied by the Company, and the photographs themselves proved satisfactorily accurate.

Minor operation.

48. Minor operations were carried on the districts of Jalpaiguri, Rajshahi, Nadia, Dacca, Bakarganj, Faridpur, Tippera and Noakhali.

Waste Lands.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1229-30.]

Waste lands.

49. Waste lands in the districts of Chittagong, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling and in the Sundarbans are settled under the special rules that exist for the purpose. During the year under report 93 leases were issued for the settlement of a further area of 1,456 acres of waste lands all in the district of Jalpaiguri on an initial revenue of Rs. 1,513 which will ultimately rise to Rs. 1,954.

The waste lands in chars Nishanbaria and Kazirchar in the district of Bakarganj yielding an annual revenue of Rs. 650 were settled for 5 years on Gorekati leases and are under diluvion. Besides these, other available waste lands brought in Rs. 19,881 as revenue.

As reported last year, a special scheme of raiyatwari settlement of 35,010 acres of char lands in Bakarganj was administratively approved by Government. The area to be settled has now increased to 44,550 acres. During the year under report, an area of 4,898 acres in Char Kukri Mukri was settled at an initial rent of Rs. 9,907 which will ultimately rise to Rs. 19,804.

In Noakhali a raiyatwari settlement of 7,726 acres of char lands was concluded during the year which will ultimately yield a rent of Rs. 38,875, while the salami realised amounted to Rs. 93,262. Besides the above, an approximate area of 22,000 acres of newly formed and re-formed lands is being taken up for raiyatwari settlement. Char Clarke with an area of 3,500 acres within the jurisdiction of Sandwip in Noakhali district which

was reported last year to have been taken possession of by the Khas Mahal Department is still extending and has been settled in annual grazing leases.

There were other minor settlements of char lands in the districts of Pabna and Tippera.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1929-30.]

Number and management.

50. The total number of estates under direct management, including those belonging to private individuals but managed by Government and excluding Calcutta, the Orphanganj Market and Hastings Estates in the 24-Parganas was 2,893 with a total demand of Rs. 59,21,716 against 2,852 with an aggregate annual demand of Rs. 57,02,169 in the previous year.

The Dum-Dum Cantonment lands, which were made over by the Government of India to the Local Government to be managed khas by the Collector, 24-Parganas, last year, have been surveyed and a record-of-right has been prepared.

The percentage of cost of management on the current demand was 9·49 against 10·0 in the previous year. There was no material change in the system of management of the khas mahals in any of the districts. The Board has however approved in principle of a scheme to improve collections in the 24-Parganas Government estates by reducing the pay of the tahsildars by about one-third and giving them commission on collections.

In Government estates in several districts encouraging results were obtained from agricultural demonstrations with sugarcane, kakya Bombay jute, paddy, English vegetables, improved potatoes, tobacco and with implements and manures, and instruction was given in matters such as preservation of fodder crops and destruction of insect pests. Agricultural exhibitions and cattle shows were held in several places.

Another batch of five bhadralok youths have been undergoing training at the Faridpur Agricultural Farm, and the five previously trained were provided with land and money in the year under report. Some khas lands were also settled with bhadraloks in Bakarganj, Noakhali and Midnapore for opening agricultural or dairy farms.

The number of schools and the pupils attending them in Government estates increased by 128 and 7,635, respectively, during the year under review.

Grant for management and improvement.

51. Out of the total grant for the management and improvement of Government estates in the Presidency, a sum of Rs. 5,62,443 was spent on management and Rs. 2,21,986 on improvements. Out of the latter amount which represents 3·7 of the current demand, Rs. 33,807 was spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 1,35,508 on drainage, irrigation and embankments and the rest on miscellaneous improvements including repairs and construction of khas mahal bungalows, roads and communications, clearance of jungles and agricultural experiments, etc.

A total amount of Rs. 22,677 was spent during the year for improvement of hats and markets in the 24-Parganas, Khulna, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Tippera and Bogra and a sum of Rs. 3,800 was spent for the construction of an embankment in the district of the 24-Parganas.

Colonisation of the Sunderbans.

52. Out of the 22 estates with an area of 178 square miles comprised in the colonization scheme of the Bakarganj Sundarbans only one estate with an area of about 5,889 acres remained to be colonised at the end of the year, which is expected to be completed in a year or two. The programme of colonisation in the 24-Parganas Sundarbans made fair progress during the year. The total expenditure incurred by Government on reclamation in the 24-Parganas and Bakarganj Sundarbans, and the total income derived from these areas up to the end of the year under report, were as below:—

	Total expenditure.	Total receipts.
	Rs.	Rs.
Bakarganj Sundarbans ..	17,66,572	23,31,532
24-Parganas Sundarbans ..	4,36,877	4,67,513

The general health of the people of the Bakarganj Sundarban was good during the year and the school-going population is steadily increasing; but the material condition of the people showed no improvement. In the 24-Parganas Sundarbans, the health of the people was bad and there was no noticeable progress in education.

Wards and Attached Estates.

Number of estates.

53. The total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards stood at 88 at the beginning of the year under report. Five new estates were brought under the charge of the Court, and 2 released during the year. Amalgamation of 2 shares of the Dacca Nawab estate has caused another reduction in the number. Thus there remained altogether 90 estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the close of the year

under report. One of those taken over—Burdwan Raj estate—is the biggest zamindari in Bengal with a demand of about 54 lakhs of rupees.

Collection of rent and cesses.

54. The total demand of rent and cesses due to the estates under the management of the Court stood at Rs. 2,33,91,157 including an arrear of Rs. 1,31,05,157, of which Rs. 96,64,675 or 41·3 per cent. was collected against 41·2 per cent. in the preceding year. The standard of 100 per cent. collection on current demand was reached or exceeded in 17 estates.

Balance of rent and cesses due to estates.

55. The outstanding balances of rent and cesses due to all the estates under the management of the Court aggregated Rs. 1,27,72,056 which represented 124·17 per cent. on the current and 54·6 per cent. on the total demand against corresponding figures of 137·03 per cent. and 55·2 per cent. of the preceding year. The heavy outstanding balances are mostly attributed to the bad economic condition prevailing during the year.

Debts of estates.

56. The total amount of ascertained debts that remained outstanding from the several estates in the Presidency at the close of the year under report stood at Rs. 2,07,84,066 against Rs. 1,00,05,245 in the preceding year. The increase is mostly due to the inclusion of the heavy debts of the estate of late Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandy, K.C.I.E., of Kasimbazar, and to the ascertainment of fresh liabilities of some estates previously under the Court. The principal repaid or otherwise reduced during the year amounted to Rs. 12,37,600 and the interest paid or otherwise reduced amounted to Rs. 13,63,839.

Management charges.

57. The percentage of the cost of management of the estates in the whole Presidency on their current rent and cess demand showed a reduction being 11·9 against 12·4 in the previous year.

Improvements.

58. The standards fixed for the minimum expenditure on education and on works of improvements in solvent estates are one and three per cent. respectively, on their current and cess standards. No standard has been fixed for expenditure on works of miscellaneous improvement. The total amount spent during the year under these heads by the estates in the Presidency amounted to Rs. 3,58,018 against Rs. 3,15,738 in the preceding year.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

Bengal Tenancy Act, the extent of its application.

59. The districts of Darjeeling, Chittagong Hill Tracts and the town of Calcutta continued to be outside the scope of the Act, while in the Duars portion of the Jalpaiguri district it applied, as before, to a limited extent. The Act was in force in the rest of the province.

Chap. II. ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Alienation of land by aborigines.

60. The provisions of Chapter VIIA of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which imposes restrictions on the alienation of land by certain aboriginal tribes, were extended to the raiyats of the colonisation area in Bakarganj Sundarbans of Amtali, Patharghata and Barguna thanas during the year under report.

Measure to compel the issue of rent receipts.

61. As in the previous year very little use was made by the tenants of the provisions of section 58 of the Act, which penalises the failure to give proper receipts after the payment of rent.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the year 1929-30.]

62. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts which are administered under the special Regulation I of 1900 and the rules framed thereunder, the land revenue proper consists of rent from lands settled for plough cultivation as opposed to the shifting cultivation by jhuming. Six hundred and fifteen preliminary leases of new settlements covering 1,350 acres of land were granted during the year against 548 covering 1,449 acres in the preceding year. The current demand of land revenue was Rs. 1,39,389 against Rs. 1,32,248 in the previous year. Collection amounted to 51 per cent. of the total demand including arrears for previous years.

Rainfall was above the normal during the year and was favourable to agricultural operations. A good outturn of paddy and cotton was obtained both from jhuming and from plough cultivation. The price of unginned cotton was between Rs. 5 and Rs. 7 per maund, while that of paddy varied from Rs. 35 to 63 per 100 aris.

There was no serious outbreak of epidemic diseases in the district during the year. Only 5 persons died of small-pox while none of cholera.

The Forest revenue rose considerably from Rs. 1,36,234 in the preceding year to Rs. 1,85,953. This does not include the revenue derived from the portions of the Hill Tracts in the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar Forest Divisions. Other revenues including the revenue from the jhum tax increased from Rs. 51,207 to Rs. 59,327.

CHAPTER III-A—PROTECTION.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES.

See—Bengal Administration Report for 1921-22, pages 154-159.

Course of Legislation.

63. Five Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1929-30:—

Acts passed.

(1) *The Bengal Children (Amendment) Act, 1929 (Bengal Act III of 1929)*, to establish a Central Court in Calcutta under an experienced Magistrate, to try juvenile offenders for offences committed in Calcutta and the neighbouring industrial area, and to determine the authority to which appeals will lie from the decision of the Juvenile Court. Certain minor and consequential changes were also made in the Bengal Children Act, 1922.

(2) *The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1930 (Bengal Act I of 1930)*, to empower the Commissioners of Kurseong Municipality to assess holdings at the increased rate of 10 per cent. of the annual value with a view to increase the income of the municipality.

(3) *The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment), Act, 1930 (Bengal Act II of 1930)*, to rectify certain drafting defects and omissions in the Amendment Act of 1928 (Bengal Act IV of 1928). Opportunity has also been taken—

(*i*) to provide an indemnity clause protecting Government and Government officers against claims by persons in respect of landlords' transfer fees which may have been paid by the Collector to others;

(*ii*) to provide that the right of a raiyat at fixed rates to hold at the fixed rent or rate of rent shall not be a protected interest unless he has held at such rent or rate of rent from the time of the permanent settlement;

(*iii*) to prevent accumulation of large sums on account of transfer fees with registering officers pending completion of registration, and

(*iv*) to provide for confirmation of sale within 30 days from the date of sale.

(4) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1930 (Bengal Act IV of 1930)*, to bring under regulation condensed, sterilised and desiccated milk and to forbid the use in butter of any preservative but salt. The Act also rectifies certain drafting defects.

(5) *The Bengal Food Adulteration (Amendment) Act, 1930 (Bengal Act V of 1930)*, to bring under regulation condensed, sterilised and desiccated milk in the rest of the province, and to rectify a defect in the Act of 1919 providing that sale of sweetmeats and other articles containing adulterated ingredients shall be punishable in the same manner as the sale of adulterated ingredients themselves.

Government Bill withdrawn.

64. One Government Bill was withdrawn with the intention of bringing in a new Bill next year, namely:—

The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Bill, 1929, to make better provision for primary education in rural areas by—

(*i*) providing an authority for each district to control primary education;

(*ii*) raising funds for the extension of primary education; and

(*iii*) providing for compulsory attendance at school.

This Bill was introduced on the 5th August 1929. A dilatory motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee consisting of 45 members was carried on the next day. The Select Committee made extensive alterations in the Bill which were unacceptable to the Government, e.g., the vesting in a Central Committee, independent of Government, of the whole power of directing the policy and administration of primary education, with power to frame statutory rules. The report of the Select Committee was presented on the 31st March 1930. The Council permitted the Minister to withdraw the Bill on the same date.

65. The following non-official members' Bills lapsed in absence of their sponsors who resigned their seats in the Council:—

Non-official Bill lapsed with the resignations of members.

(1) *The Calcutta University Bill, 1929, by Dr. Pramathanath Banerjee*, already mentioned in the previous year's report.

(2) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1929, by Maulvi Shamsuddin Ahmed*, already mentioned in the previous year's summary. This Bill was referred to a Select Committee on the 7th February 1930. The report of the Committee was presented after the close of the year.

(3) *The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1930, by Babu Sanat Kumar Ray Chaudhuri*, to transfer the power of appointment and dismissal of chaukidars and dafadars from District Magistrates to union boards and to provide more funds for works of public utility to be taken up by union boards. The Bill was introduced on the 7th February 1930, and a motion to circulate the Bill for opinion was agreed to on the same date.

Police administration in the Bengal Presidency.

[The report on the Police administration in the Bengal Presidency for the year 1929].

Eastern Frontier Rifles.

66. The battalion again rendered excellent service as a reserve force for use on occasions of grave emergency, and its good record for discipline of a high standard was, with the exception of one incident well maintained. All ranks acquitted themselves well in very trying circumstances.

Recruitment and health of the civil police.

67. The number of constables recruited during the year was 1,612 against 2,033 in 1928, while the vacancies at the close of the year were only 206 against 377 at the end of 1928. The total number of casualties fell from 1,994 in 1928 to 1,493, the lowest figure on record, and there was a marked drop in the number of resignations from 650 in 1928 to 304. There were also 700 constables with three years' service and over more than in the previous year. These figures indicate that the recent increase of pay of the lower ranks has had a marked effect in reducing wastage and in conducing to greater contentment with the general conditions of service.

There was an improvement in the general health of the force as indicated by the fall in the number of cases admitted to hospital from 12,753 to 11,564. There is great need for extended and improved hospital accommodation, but financial conditions have made it impossible to carry out more extensive schemes for hospital construction and improvement than have been undertaken.

Housing conditions have an important bearing on the health contentment and efficiency of the police. Many of the houses provided for the staff of mufassal police stations are dilapidated and insanitary. It is recognized that improvements are necessary but so far financial conditions have frustrated the efforts of the department to improve matters.

Discipline.

68. Departmental punishments rose from 10,803 to 11,091. Punishments inflicted under the Police Act fell from 90 to 62 while judicial punishments under the Indian Penal Code and

other Acts rose slightly from 53 to 60. There was a slight decrease in the number of complaints lodged against the police from 383 in 1928 to 364. Out of 364 complaints lodged, 311 were disposed of during the year with the following results:—

Ended in conviction—34.

Ended in acquittal or discharge—106.

Dismissed—171.

In no case was any severe stricture passed by the Hon'ble High Court or any Court of Sessions on the conduct of the police.

Crime statistics.

69. The number of cognisable cases reported decreased slightly from 92,025 in 1928 to 91,495 and the number of true cases of serious crime increased slightly from 43,996 to 44,390. The number of thefts again fell from 15,699 in 1928 to 15,439, the lowest figure recorded, and dacoities decreased considerably from 802 to 693. The number of burglaries, however, increased from 24,584 to 25,568.

The results of investigations and trials in police cases continue to compare very favourably with those obtained in other provinces.

There was delay in certain districts in taking up for trial cases committed to the Court of Sessions and much time was involved in the trial of bad livelihood cases.

The continued deterioration in the speedy disposal of police cases by Magistrates and the granting of bail in non-bailable cases to known criminals was also noticeable.

Section 526, Criminal Procedure Code, was frequently misused as a device for the obstruction of trials. The misuse will continue until the section is amended and the only remedy is by legislation.

Working of the rural police.

70. While there has been no marked improvement in the work of the rural police generally, there have been several instances of good work on the part of individual members and several cases in which the police have received substantial assistance from presidents and members of union boards and from village defence parties.

Police administration in Calcutta.

[The Report on the Police administration in the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1929.]

Strength.

71. The sanctioned strength of the Calcutta Police at the close of the year was 5,750, an increase of 113 over the sanctioned strength of the previous year. This increase was due to the

entertainment of an additional force in the Detective Department of the Port Police and of a guard for the recently completed King George's Dock. In actual strength, there has been an increase of 183 over the actual strength of 1928, while at the same time the number of constables recruited fell from 673 in 1928 to 641 in 1929. The number of resignations fell from 90 in the previous year to 46 in the year under review, and the number of vacancies in the rank of constable at the end of the year was 33 only. These figures afford an indication that the effect of the improved rates of pay in the lower ranks has been, as was anticipated, to reduce the annual wastage very considerably and to cause greater general contentment amongst these ranks. It is satisfactory to note that the improvement in the health of the force, was maintained, the average daily percentage of sick falling from 2·04 to 1·90.

Housing.

72. Although the condition of the police buildings in the suburban areas continues to be generally unsatisfactory, necessitating their early improvement, the state of provincial finances precluded the adoption of any loans scheme for the construction of new suburban police buildings and it is feared that it will not be found possible to undertake this work at an early date.

Discipline.

73. There was a decrease in the number of prosecutions of members of the force and in the number of dismissals arising out of departmental proceedings.

Crime statistics.

74. There has been a further striking increase in the number of cases reported to the police, but it may be noted that this increase relates to offences other than offences under the Indian Penal Code, the number of cases under the Calcutta and Suburban Police Act having risen by nearly 20,000 and those under the Motor Vehicles Act by nearly 5,000. The very considerable drop in the number of true cases of burglary is satisfactory and there has also been a small decrease in the number of true cases of theft. In regard to the prosecution of juveniles for petty offences it is hoped that the establishment of the Central Children's Court, with a special whole-time Magistrate, will result in the more effective handling of such cases on more practical lines.

Revolutionary crime, seditious speeches and writings.

75. Although no overt act of violence was committed during the year by terrorists in Calcutta, the necessity for constant vigilance against revolutionary activity was again clearly demonstrated by the discovery of a serious terrorist conspiracy in which a number of young men of the bhadralok class were involved. The criminal case, commonly known as the Mechuabazar Bomb Case, which was the outcome of this discovery was tried before a special tribunal and 17 persons have subsequently been convicted.

Seditious speeches and writings were numerous and there was a large increase in the number of prosecutions.

Public order. 76. Although there was no serious case of rioting of an inter-communal character during the year, it was not found possible on the occasions of the more important religious festivals to relax in any degree, those elaborate precautionary measures which impose a very considerable extra strain on the police.

Labour. 77. The year was marked by considerable general labour unrest, including a general strike in the mills in and near Calcutta, but no serious disturbances resulted.

Traffic. 78. With the continued growth of the use of motor transport for private, commercial and public service purposes, the problem both in regard to the control of traffic in the streets and in regard to the prosecution of offenders against the motor vehicles and traffic rules has become one of very great difficulty. The large increase in the number of traffic offences has caused serious congestion in the Traffic Court and no little inconvenience to the public. It is desirable that steps should be taken to ensure a speedier disposal of these cases by the establishment of a Traffic Bureau on up-to-date lines.

Miscellaneous. 79. There has been no mitigation of the nuisance caused by beggars, hawkers and stray cattle in the streets of Calcutta and in the absence of any strong public opinion in this matter, little can be done by police action alone to effect any real improvement. As stated on the previous occasion much could be done by the Corporation to improve the situation and Government would give every support to the Corporation of Calcutta in the exercise of their powers for the abatement of the present nuisance.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1929].

Judicial staff. 80. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 14 Additional Sessions Judges throughout the year. Nine Subordinate Judges vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judge were employed in nine districts and decided 97 cases. There were also 14 temporary Additional Sessions Judges employed for varying periods in different districts on sessions work.

The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 466 stipendiary

and 583 Honorary Magistrates. One special Magistrate was employed at Noakhali for 78 days, during the year. He decided 166 cases. Of the 466 Stipendiary Magistrates, 275 exercised first, 148 second and 43 third class powers. There were 120 benches of Magistrates constituted from among 540 Honorary Magistrates in the mufassal.

81. The number of offences reported during the year combined with the number pending from the previous year was 458,696 against 424,132 in 1928. Offences reported

82. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 380,011 were found to be true, and of these 333,335 were brought to trial. Cases found to be true.

Original Jurisdiction.

I.—Presidency Magistrates' courts.

83. Of the total number of cases brought to trial 160,309 were in the courts of the police and Municipal Magistrates in the Presidency town, and 173,026 in the courts of Magistrates in the mufassal.

The number of cases brought before the Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrates, was 24,099 more than in 1928. There was an increase in the number of cases under special and local laws as well as under the Penal Code. Under the latter head, the most noticeable features were the increase in offences affecting the public health and the decrease in cases of theft, which fell from 1,465 to 1,286.

84. The percentage of convictions before stipendiary amounted to 75·6 and before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly 98·7. Results of trials.

II.—Magistrates outside Calcutta.

85. Including cases committed to the sessions, 172,594 cases were disposed of during the year. Cases disposed of.

The disposals were distributed as follows:—

District Magistrates	106
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	1,40,847
Honorary Magistrates	15,729
Benches of Magistrates	15,672
Special Magistrates	166

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Sub-divisional Magistrates decided 74 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The total number of cases disposed of by the District Magistrates was 180, the largest number having been decided by the District Magistrate of Birbhum (90).

Results of trials.

86. In the cases finally disposed of by Magistrates, 253,744 persons were accused. Of the total, 119,547 or 47·1 per cent. were convicted and 134,197 or 52·9 per cent. were acquitted or discharged.

Punishments.

87. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Imprisonment	16,297
Fine or forfeiture	101,261
Whipping	163

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 11,91,900. Rupees 8,44,758 was realised of which Rs. 1,37,832 was paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscellaneous proceedings under the code of criminal procedure.

88. The total number of miscellaneous cases decided during the year was 8,795 against 8,612 in the previous year.

Witnesses.

89. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of Magistrates in the mufassal was 380,741 as compared with 385,562 in 1928. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 178,006 or 31·8 per cent. of the whole number in attendance; the percentage in the preceding year was 31·6. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 3,07,715 in 1928 to Rs. 3,32,434 in 1929.

Union benches.

90. Seven hundred and forty-five union benches established in 20 districts under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, had before them 90,457 persons of whom 71,035 were acquitted or discharged and 8,120 convicted and 9,345 persons remained under trial at the end of the year. The cases of 1,957 persons were transferred for trial to other courts. Two hundred and three persons were sentenced to terms of imprisonment and orders of fine or forfeiture were passed against 7,915 persons. The amount of fine imposed was Rs. 55,964 and the amount realised was Rs. 49,532 out of which Rs. 1,245 was ordered to be paid as compensation. One thousand two hundred and twenty-two persons applied for the revision of the orders passed by union benches.

III.—Courts of sessions.

91. The number of cases disposed of in the courts of sessions was 1,658 against 1,467 in the previous year. Cases disposed of.

92. There were 6,896 persons, or 465 more than in 1928, under trial before the courts of sessions. Of the 4,627 persons tried, 2,351 or 50·8 per cent. were convicted and 2,088 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 188 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Results of trials.

93. The following sentences were passed by the courts of session:— Punishments.

Death	7
Transportation or penal servitude	68
Imprisonment	2,120
Fine or forfeiture	207
Whipping	3

In addition to these sentences, 393 persons were required to give security.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 35,475 of which Rs. 6,659 was realised. The amount of fines realised and paid as compensation was Rs. 345.

94. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 34,276. Of these, 23,201 were examined and 11,075 discharged without examination. Witnesses.

The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 1,33,306 as compared with Rs. 1,37,973 in 1928.

95. The number of cases disposed of in the High Court Sessions was 71 against 52 in the previous year. Cases disposed of in the High Court Sessions.

Altogether 118 persons were tried of whom 71 were convicted and 47 acquitted.

Appellate Jurisdiction.

I.—High Court.

96. At the opening of the year, 125 appeals from sentences or orders of criminal courts were pending before the High Court. During the year 900 appeals were preferred and 821 were decided leaving 204 pending at its close.

Results of appeals.

97. Five hundred and eight appeals against sentences of courts of sessions were decided. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 436, modified in 38 and reversed in 15 instances, 19 cases were remanded for trial.

Three hundred and ten appeals from the orders of Magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being affirmed in 276, modified in nine and reversed in 21 cases. One case was disposed of otherwise and three cases were remanded for retrial.

Of the two appeals preferred by the local Government and decided during the year, one was confirmed and the sentence was reversed in one case.

III.—Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

98. The number of appeals disposed of in the courts of sessions was 4,582 against 4,640 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 8,457 persons were concerned.

The appeals of 1,895 persons or 22·4 per cent. were summarily dismissed; 2,958 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 1,286 obtained an alteration of sentence, and 2,035 were acquitted. The cases of 283 appellants were otherwise disposed of.

Magistrates' Courts.

99. In the courts of magistrates, 3,580 appeals were decided against 3,670 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 6,325 persons were concerned. Of these, the appeals of 985 were rejected, and the sentences on 2,862 whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 3,847 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 60·8 per cent. of the remainder 752 appellants or 11·8 per cent. obtained an alteration of the sentences passed on them, 1,607 or 25·4 per cent. their total annulment and the cases of 119 appellants were otherwise disposed of. Compared with 1928, the results were less favourable to appellants.

General.

100. Compared with the figures of 1928 there was an increase in the number of criminal cases disposed of by magistrates both in the mufassal and in the Presidency town. There was also an increase in the revisional work but a decrease in the appellate work disposed of by magistrates in the mufassal. In the courts of sessions and in the High Court there was an increase in the out-turn of original and revisional work but a decrease in that of appellate work. Fifty-eight persons (24 in the Presidency town, 21 in the 24-Parganas, 6 in Jalpaiguri, 2 each

in Bankura, Nadia and Jessore and 1 in Hooghly) were under trial for offences against the State. Of these, 4 were acquitted, 25 convicted and 29 remained under trial at the close of the year.

The reports of the districts in which the Union Benches are established show that the benches are growing in popularity and affording some relief to the Magistrates.

Receipts and charges.

101. After debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice a part of the salaries of judicial officers, proportionate to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to criminal work, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 39,82,818. Of this amount Rs. 21,50,880 were for the salaries of judicial officers, Rs. 2,01,009 for fixed and temporary copying establishments, Rs. 1,59,781 for process-servers, Rs. 7,04,445 for other establishments and Rs. 7,66,703 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 25,77,312. Of this amount Rs. 12,50,576 was under fines, Rs. 1,82,467 under process fees, Rs. 3,02,611 under copying and comparing fees, Rs. 7,37,484 under court-fee stamps receipts other than the above, and Rs. 1,04,174 was miscellaneous receipts. Compared with the figures of 1928, the receipts show an increase of over Rs. 1,90,000 and the charges an increase of over Rs. 97,000.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1929.]

Judicial staff.

102. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1929 consisted of 15 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, 14 Additional District Judges, a Chief Judge and six Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, two Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 44 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In addition four executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge and two the powers of a Munsif.

One temporary Additional High Court Judge was employed throughout the year. There were also 14 temporary Additional District Judges, 19 temporary Additional Subordinates Judges and 3 temporary Additional Munsifs employed for varying periods in different districts.

Original Jurisdiction.

I.—High Court.

Original suits for disposal.

103. The total number of civil suits for disposal on the Original Side of the High Court in 1929 was 6,265 against 6,249 in the previous year.

Of 2,467 suits instituted during 1929, 1,607 were for money or movable property, 213 were mortgage suits and 173 were for immovable property.

The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 3,89,26,728 as compared with Rs. 4,57,76,601 in the previous year.

Original suits disposed of.

104. The number of suits decided in 1929 was 3,142. The number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 3,123. The number pending at the close of the year was less than the number pending at the close of the previous year by 643. There were 1,566 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 521 on the figures of the previous year.

Probates and Letters of Administration, etc.

105. During the year, 486 petitions for probate and letters of administration, and 9,960 interlocutory applications were disposed of. Of the interlocutory applications, 5,188 were disposed of by the Court or by a Judge in Chambers and the remainder (4,772) by the Registrar and the Master.

Awards under the Indian Arbitration Act, IX of 1899.

106. The number of arbitration awards filed and that of applications made in execution thereof were 160 and 120 respectively.

Insolvency cases.

107. The number of cases under the old and new Acts pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 163 and 1,026, respectively, and the number instituted during the year was 224. Of the 1,413 cases for disposal, 417 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed in 323 and the insolvents obtaining relief in 94 cases. Three thousand one hundred and twenty-seven applications of a miscellaneous character were also disposed of during the year.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

108. Nine appeals to the Privy Council from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, and four appeals were admitted during the year. Of these three were disposed of by the Privy Council and ten remained pending at the close of the year.

Financial results.

109. The following figures exhibit the financial results for the last three years including under the head of expenditure, the salaries of the Judges:—

Year.	*Receipts.	†Receipts.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1927	22,49,171	8,45,267	7,04,244
1928	24,58,325	11,41,858	7,28,318
1929	82,83,942	9,57,511	6,89,194

The reason for the enormous increase in receipts in 1929 was mainly due to a very large amount of probate duty (Rs. 52,08,199) being realised on account of the estate of the late Sir David Yule.

* Including the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration.
† Excluding the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration.

II.—Civil courts in the mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

Original suits instituted.

110. The number of suits instituted in 1929 was 637,446, an increase of 20,428 on the figures of the previous year.

Local distribution.

111. There was an increase in the number of suits instituted in all districts except Bakarganj, Dinajpur, Bankura, 24-Parganas and Mymensingh. The increase was most marked in Pabna-Bogra, Jessore, Dacca, Rajshahi and Faridpur and occurred chiefly in money suits.

The largest number of suits, viz., 62,200 was instituted in the district of Mymensingh where the number of money and title suits (29,810 and 7,008, respectively) was the heaviest in the province. In no other district did the institutions exceed 50,000.

Number of suits disposed of.

112. The number of suits disposed of was 640,929, an increase of 34,212 on the figures of 1928.

Of the total number, 621,065 were disposed of by Munsifs, 13,682 by Subordinate Judges, 5,772 by Small Cause Court Judges, 410 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show an increase under all grades of courts except in the Courts of Small Cause Court Judges.

Results of suits decided.

113. Of the suits disposed of during the year, 98,505 were decided without trial, 468,935 without contest, and 73,489 on contest.

Of the 73,489 suits decided on contest, 565 were disposed of on reference to arbitration. Of the remainder, 60,402 or 82·8 per cent. resulted in favour of the plaintiffs, 12,522 or 17·2 per cent. in favour of the defendants.

Applications for retrial.

114. The number of applications for an order to set aside an ex-parte judgment or a judgment on default, preferred during the year, was 18,519. Of these, 8,570 or 46·2 per cent., were successful.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

115. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs rose from 587,795 to 621,065, an increase of 33,270.

The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 2,577 against 2,469 in 1928. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 27·6 per cent. of the total.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

116. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 13,682, an increase of 1,213 on the figures of the previous year. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 7,112 and under the Small Cause Court procedure, 6,570: of these, 31·1 per cent. and 14 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentage of suits decided after contest under the ordinary procedure shows an increase and that of suits decided after contest under the Small Cause Court procedure a decrease, as compared with the previous year.

Suits disposed of by Small Cause Court Judges.

117. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 5,772 original suits of which 784 were contested or 106 more than in the previous year.

Pending suits.

118. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 209,541 against 202,665 in the previous year.

Of the pending suits, 16,525 had been pending for more than a year, 75,348 for more than six months but less than a year and 49,134 for more than three months but less than six months. The figures show an increase in the long pending arrears. Of the suits pending over one year, 11,936 were in the courts of Munsifs and 4,589 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges the figures showing an increase of 347 and a decrease of 65, respectively, as compared with 1928. About 37 per cent. of these suits were, however, pending for final decree.

Miscellaneous cases.

119. Excluding transfers there were 109,249 miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature before the courts for disposal, against 108,988 in the previous year. Of these, 87,062 were disposed of, 189 applications for Probates and Letters of Administration were

treated as suits on their becoming contested, and 21,998 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the cases disposed of, 35,503 were decided without trial, 36,152 without contest, and 15,407 on contest or on reference to arbitration. Of the pending cases, 696 were pending over a year, Hooghly being responsible for the largest number (292).

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

120. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1929 and the number pending at its close were 23,328, 24,035 and 3,960, respectively. The figures show an increase of 671,655 and 258, respectively, as compared with the previous year. Thirty-one applications were filed under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899).

The increase in institutions was spread over all classes of suits except those valued at between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50, and Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000. The number of suits the value of which cannot be estimated in money, was also fewer than in the previous year.

Mode of disposal.

121. Of the suits disposed of, 1,090 were decided without trial, 19,229 without contest and 3,716 on contest or upon reference to arbitration.

Of the 3,960 suits pending at the close of the year, 750 were over three months old, against 831 in 1928.

Union Courts.

122. There were 644 union courts established in seventeen of the districts in the Presidency under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919. The receipts amounted to Rs. 97,876 and the expenditure to Rs. 27,178. 65,902 suits were instituted during the year for money or movable property representing a total value of Rs. 24,10,721. 9,127 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of miscellaneous cases for trial was 22,897, of which 2,787 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of revision cases from the decision of these courts was 276, of which 50 were dismissed or not prosecuted. In 81 cases the decision of the Union Court was confirmed, in 8 cases it was modified and in 33 cases it was reversed. 16 cases were remanded and 88 remained pending at the close of the year.

Appellate Jurisdiction.

I.—*High Court.*

Appeals under section 15 of the letters patent.

123. One hundred and sixteen appeals from decisions on the Original Side were filed during the year and 65 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 109 were decided and 72 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 4 more than in 1928. On the Appellate Side, 44 Letters Patent appeals were filed during the year and 47 were pending at its commencement. Of these, 84 were decided and 7 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—*Appeals from the subordinate Civil Courts.*

Appeals to the High Court from subordinate courts.

124. The following statement shows the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts of original and appellate jurisdiction respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year. The figures include appeals from the Courts of Assam:—

	Remaining at the close of 1928.	Brought before the court in 1929.	Disposed of in 1929.	Remaining at the close of 1929.
First Appeals.				
From original decrees ..	787	342	(a) 308	821
From original orders ..	326	364	377	313
From orders of the Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923 ..	3	3	3	3
Second appeals.				
From appellate decrees	3,821	3,312	(b)2,335	4,798
From appellate orders ..	119	254	231	142
Total ..	5,056	4,275	3,254	6,077

(a) Including 47 Will cases.

(b) Of these, 209 were decided by a single Judge.

Chap. III-A. PROTECTION.

Results of Appeals.

125. The following table shows the results of appeals decided by the High Court affecting District Judges, Subordinate Judges and Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923:—

	Affirmed.			Modified or reversed.		
	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.
Appeals from— Original decrees	75	55	..	57	44	..
Appellate decrees	292	507	..	153	109	..
Miscellaneous appeals ..	90	126	2	58	65	1

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals for disposal.

126. Excluding transfers, the number of appeals for disposal before the subordinate courts in Bengal in 1929 was 36,807 against 37,387 in 1928.

The number of appeals instituted during the year was 16,915 against 15,963 in the previous year. Of these, 7,801 were in title suits, 7,048 in rent suits, and 2,066 in suits for money or movables. The numbers show an increase of 30,856 and 66, respectively.

Appeals disposed of.

127. The number of appeals decided was 18,208 and shows an increase of 1,137 in the number decided by Subordinate Judges and a decrease of 879 in that decided by District and Additional Judges as compared with the previous year.

The increase in disposals was spread over twelve districts and was largest in 24-Parganas (707) followed by Pabna-Bogra (256), Bakarganj (224) and Mymensingh (199).

On the other hand there was a noticeable decrease in Noakhali (541) which was due to the fact that the Subordinate Judges devoted more time to original work during the year and also to the fact that owing to increase in the criminal work the District and Additional Judges could not devote much time to civil work.

Appeals pending.

128. The number of appeals pending at the close of the year was 18,599 and was less than that of 1928 by 838.

The number of over one year-old appeals fell from 5,787 to 5,178. Hooghly was accountable for the largest number, viz., 509.

Results of appeals.

129. The results on the decision of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year were as follows:—

In 9,819 cases, or 53·9 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower courts was affirmed; in 2,321 cases, or 12·8 per cent. it was modified; and in 2,924 cases, or 16 per cent., it was reversed. Six hundred and seventy-seven or 3·7 per cent. were remanded and 2,467 or 13·6 per cent. were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results are, on the whole, less favourable to the lower courts than in the preceding year.

General.

130. There was a large increase in the number of original suits instituted in the subordinate courts and, although the disposals were greater than the institutions there was an increase in the pending file. The number of appeals preferred in the lower appellate courts was also larger, but the number disposed of being greater, there was an appreciable reduction of the pending file. The number of year old cases was larger in the original, but smaller in the appellate courts than in the previous year. On the Appellate Side of the High Court, the institutions were more, but the disposals were less, than in the previous year and consequently there was an increase in the pending file.

The Union Courts.

131. The union courts are generally reported to be viewed with appreciation by the public and are affording some relief to the Munsifs.

Receipts and charges of the civil courts.

132. The receipts of the civil courts in Bengal and of the High Court amounted to Rs. 2,62,55,411 showing an increase of Rs. 62,95,852 and the charges to Rs. 89,09,727 showing a decrease of Rs. 1,85,239 on those of 1928.

Including the amount realised on account of duty on probate, etc.—

	Rs.
In the High Court	70,36,898*
In other courts	2,97,948*
Total ..	73,34,846

* The figures are for the financial year.

the profit to Government from civil litigation amounted to Rs. 1,73,45,684; excluding this item, it amounted to Rs. 1,00,10,838.

Details of the receipts and charges are as follows:—

RECEIPTS.

	Rs.
In stamps—	
Process-fees	25,44,653
Other fees	2,25,88,348
In cash or special stamps—	
Other receipts	3,36,411
Copying and comparing fees	7,82,286
Fines	3,713
Total ..	2,62,55,411

CHARGES.

	Rs.
Salaries of Judicial Officers	32,32,771
Establishment—	
Process-servers	10,79,759
Others	30,97,128
Copyists' fees	5,58,478
Contingencies and refunds	9,41,591
Total ..	89,09,727

There was an increase in receipts under the head "Other fees" and "Copying and comparing fees." Under the former head the increase amounted to more than Rs. 64,00,000. The decrease in expenditure was under all heads except "Contingencies and refunds" and was largest under the head "Salaries of judicial officers" which exceeded Rs. 1,85,000.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Statements showing the Civil and Criminal Jutice in the Scheduled district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for 1929],

Administration of Justice.

133. The Chittagong Hill Tracts were declared by a notification of the 3rd January 1921, to be "backward tracts" under section 52A of the Government of India Act. The Courts in these tracts are not subordinate to the High Court, the Deputy Commissioner's Court being the Chief Court of the district and the Court of the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division being the Supreme Court.

Criminal Jurtice.

134. The number of offences reported during the year 1929 was 513, of which 307 were returned as true and 250 were brought to trial. Four hundred and forty-one persons were under trial; of these 248 were acquitted or discharged and 139 were convicted. In the cases ending in conviction, seven persons were sentenced to imprisonment of more than six months while in the other cases the punishments were less. One person was whipped for offences under section 380 of the Indian Penal Code.

Civil Justice.

135. One thousand one hundred and fourteen Civil Suits were instituted during the year, the total value of these suits being Rs. 1,54,656. Of the 1,240 suits before the Courts, all but 217 were disposed of.

Jails.

[The Report on the administration of the Jails Department of the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1929].

Jail population.

136. The average daily population in the jails of Bengal rose to 14,477, thus maintaining the somewhat noticeable increase remarked in the three preceding years. The average number of male convicts per diem was 14,325, and of females 152. The number of admissions during the year was 77,981 as against 74,774 in the preceding year.

Health and mortality of prisoners.

137. The progressive improvement in the death-rate of prisoners has continued. In the year under review this fell to 12·2 per mille, which is the lowest figure on record in this province. This figure is an indication of the skill and care exercised by Superintendents and their staff, particularly the medical staff, and is likewise a satisfactory comment upon the rules laid down for the diet and treatment of prisoners in the jails of this Presidency.

Jail Expenditure.

138. The total cost of guarding and maintaining the prisoners shows a slight increase, the decrease in dietary charges being more than counterbalanced by the larger expenditure on establishment consequent upon the increased rates of pay granted to head warders and warders and certain additions to the staff in Central Jails.

Undertrial prisoners.

139. The average period of detention of prisoners awaiting trial shows a regrettable increase. The total average for Sessions cases being 56 days as against 45 of the preceding year and in cases other than Sessions cases 25 as against 21 of the preceding year. The figures for the districts of Krishnagar, Dacca, Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna and Faridpur are particularly deplorable in respect of Sessions cases, while in other cases Dacca, Berhampore and Chittagong are noticeable.

140. The total earnings of the manufacturing departments of the jails showed a slight increase from Rs. 4,17,555 in 1928 to Rs. 4,19,250 in 1929. Steps have recently been taken with a view to securing that the other departments of Government are not only aware of the articles which the Jails Department manufacture and the rates at which they are able to supply them, but shall place with the Jails Department their orders for such articles as a matter of course. **Jail earnings.**

141. The increased rates of pay granted to the warder staff have encouraged the men to remain in the service and have contributed to the decrease in loss of efficiency due to sickness. Before any marked improvement in the general standard of their work can be expected to appear, arrangements, now unhappily held up for lack of funds, must be made for affording them suitable training in their difficult duties when they join the force. Financial difficulties have prevented more rapid progress in the introduction of those reforms recommended by the Jails Committees. With the means at their disposal the Jail Department have not spared themselves in the effort to ensure that everything possible was done to minimise the effect of financial stringency on the solution of the difficult problems with which they are faced in this Presidency. **Reforms.**

142. The scheme to provide primary education for young prisoners in the Alipore Central Jail has now been sanctioned as a permanent measure. The importance to the control of crime in the province of according correct treatment to young offenders cannot be over-estimated. The development of the Borstal School at Bankura should not only lead the Courts to study the possibilities of the Act and make a discriminating use of the institution, but should attract and hold the interest and active support of all persons who desire to assist in the conversion of potential criminals into useful and productive citizens. The Borstal School can do much for young persons committed to it, but its efforts will go in vain unless the public at larger recognise that they and they alone can ensure the ultimate success of its work by the practical help and sympathy which they extend to the boys on return to normal life, and by actively participating in the work of the After-care Associations which are assisting their return to society. **Primary education and Borstal School.**

143. The total admissions into jails included 130 young persons of less than 16 years of age. The appreciable rise in the admission of juvenile prisoners to ordinary criminal jails is to be deplored. An unsatisfactory feature, is the fact that 28 per cent. of convicts received sentences not exceeding one month, while a further 25 per cent. received sentences not exceeding three months. **Juvenile offenders.**

Separation of prisoners.

144. The effective separation of different classes of prisoners is as important to the prevention of crime as it is difficult to ensure. During the year under review arrangements were completed for converting the Presidency Jail into a special jail for the confinement of habitual offenders and recidivists, and it is hoped that this step may prove to be the first of others in this direction. Contamination does not, however, take place only after conviction. The accommodation for undertrial prisoners has long ceased to be sufficiently spacious to admit of the segregation of known offenders from other persons awaiting trial, and the problem can only be solved by extensive new building projects entailing considerable expenditure.

Jail offences and punishment.

145. The number of offences committed by prisoners in jail again shows a decrease although the daily average population has risen. The number of prisoners punished with whipping was 9 against 5 in the preceding year. In 21 jails out of 25 there was no punishment of whipping.

Advisory Boards.

146. Advisory Boards for the premature release of prisoners eligible under the rules were held half-yearly at each of the five Central Jails. One hundred and forty-four prisoners were brought before the Boards; 52 were recommended for release and the cases of 92 were rejected or deferred. Government sanctioned the release of 51 prisoners.

Registration.

[Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1929].

Progress and statistics of 1929.

147. There were 420 offices open at the end of the year as against 418 at the end of 1928. Two experimental offices were opened during the year under review.

The total income of the Registration Department decreased from Rs. 39,85,562 in 1928 to Rs. 35,32,293 in 1929, i.e., by 11·3 per cent. The decrease was mainly due to the decrease in registrations. The total expenditure also decreased from Rs. 20,40,492 in 1928 to Rs. 19,46,340 in 1929, i.e., by 4·6 per cent. The decrease was due to lower expenditure on extra copying establishment on account of decrease in registrations.

Results.

148. The outstanding feature of the working of the Indian Registration Act in Bengal during 1929 was the decrease in registrations which fell from 19,41,510 in 1928 to 16,32,756 in 1929, i.e., by 15·9 per cent. This decrease was shared by all districts in the Province except Calcutta and Darjeeling. Taking

the province by divisions, the largest decrease was in the Dacca Division, being 18·3 per cent., followed by the Burdwan Division with a decrease of 18 per cent., Presidency 17·7 per cent., Rajshahi 15 per cent. and Chittagong Division, 8·5 per cent. The general trade depression and the low price of jute are mainly responsible for the decrease in the numbers of registration.

Although there was a total decrease in registrations in the Province, the number of registrations increased in the district of Darjeeling by 88·9 per cent. The increase was due to the registrations of Darjeeling Improvement Fund Hat Pattas.

Working of the Special Marriage Act III of 1872

149. Sixty-two marriages were registered during the calendar year 1929, under the Special Marriage Act III of 1872, against 49 in 1928. Of these, 50 were registered in Calcutta, 2 each in Bakarganj and Mymensingh, 6 in Dacca and 1 each in Faridpur and Hooghly. There were 42 Marriage Registrars including 28 ex-officio Registrars at the end of the year 1929, against 43 in the previous year. Of these Marriage Registrars only 10 registered marriages during the year.

Working of the Muhammadan Registration Act and the Kazis' Act.

150. There were 372 offices at the end of the year 1929, against 365 at the close of the preceding year. The total number of marriages and divorces registered during the year was 110,150 against 101,798 in 1928, showing an increase of 8·2 per cent. Dacca and Chittagong Divisions had a considerable increase in registrations which may be attributed partly to the passage of the Child Marriage Restraint Act and partly to the growing appreciation of the benefits of registration under the Muhammadan Registration Act.

The total receipts including gratuities of Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis, amounted to Rs. 2,42,142-8 during 1929, against Rs. 2,21,774-8 in the preceding year showing an increase of 9·2 per cent. The average income of Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis during the year under review was Rs. 650-14-9 against Rs. 609 in 1928 and Rs. 608 in 1927.

Before 1918, there was a centralised permanent committee for the entire Province. Subsequently local advisory committees were formed at the headquarters of each district other than Calcutta to assist the Registrar in selecting candidates for posts of Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis and the functions of the permanent committee were restricted to those of an examining board or of an advisory body on general questions, the bulk of its work in connection with the selection of candidates for posts of Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis all over the Province (with the exception of Calcutta) being transferred to district advisory

committees. The working of district advisory committees was not entirely satisfactory and these committees and the existing permanent committee were abolished and the old centralised permanent committee for the whole Province having power to advise on all appointments of Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis was revived during the year under review. No meeting of the permanent committee was held during the year.

CHAPTER III-B.—PROTECTION.

Municipal and Local Self-Government Departments.

Calcutta Corporation.

151. Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta was elected Mayor for the fourth time and Mr. M. Abdur Razzak was re-elected Deputy Mayor. Personnel.

152. The third General Election under the new Act was held in March 1930. The total number of electors was 67,079. There were contests only in 17 Wards out of 32 Non-Muhammadan Constituencies and 5 out of 7 Muhammadan Constituencies, and the votes cast were 56 and 61 per cent. of the total voting strength of the Non-Muhammadan and Muhammadan contested Wards respectively. The present Corporation consists of 57 Hindus, 17 Muhammadans, 13 Europeans and Anglo-Indians, 1 Indian Christian and 2 Jews. Election.

153. The revenue account of the Corporation opened with a balance of Rs. 1,08,43,772. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 2,34,90,777 and the payments to Rs. 2,30,79,418. Adjusting assets and liabilities of the previous year and taking into account those of the year under report, the income for the year amounted to Rs. 2,37,07,607 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,31,23,323. On the basis of actual receipts and payments, there was a balance of Rs. 1,12,55,131, of which Rs. 67,87,493 was in cash. The balance consists of stores-in-stock Rs. 4,85,690 and advances Rs. 39,81,948. The latter includes Rs. 32,28,893 being temporary advance from revenue for financing the scheme for the extension of water-supply and other capital works to be recouped on the raising of loans. Finances.

Towards the end of January 1929 the Corporation obtained the sanction of Government to the raising of three 5 per cent. loans of Rs. 25 lakhs, Rs. 25 lakhs and Rs. 36 lakhs having currencies of 28 years, 29 years and 30 years respectively. Out of the loan of Rs. 36 lakhs, Rs. 20 lakhs was, with the sanction of Government reserved under section 113 of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923, for issue at par to, and in the name of, the Corporation for investment of sinking and other funds and the balance of Rs. 16 lakhs was issued to the public in March 1929. Against this issue Rs. 4,88,500 was raised in that month (1928-29) and the balance of Rs. 11,11,500 early in 1929-30. The remaining two loans of Rs. 25 lakhs each were issued during 1929-30 as loans of 1929-30 with fresh sanction of Government. Out of each of these two

loans, Rs. 5 lakhs was reserved by the Corporation with the sanction of Government for the investment of sinking and other funds. The balance of Rs. 40 lakhs was issued to the public after the loan operations of the Government of India were over and was fully raised. No debenture loan was repaid during the year, but Rs. 5,238 was repaid to Government on account of the loans of the added areas. The total indebtedness of the Corporation at the end of the year stood at Rs. 7,82,09,014 including Rs. 74,59,792 on account of the Sterling Debenture loan of £500,000. Against this indebtedness there was an accumulation of Rs. 1,65,75,492 in the sinking funds. The total actual liability on account of loan charges during the year 1929-30 amounted to Rs. 49,94,050 and this was the actual amount paid.

Assessment Department.

154. As the result mainly of the general revision of assessments there was an increase of Rs. 30,01,300 in the assessed valuation of the city which stood at Rs. 9,90,70,641 at the end of the year.

Surveyor's Department.

155. The department prepared plans and estimates for 147 projects involving an area of about 438 bighas of land at an estimated cost of Rs. 82 lakhs and acquired about 2¾ bighas of land at an estimated cost of about Rs. 3 lakhs. Besides these, about 1¾ bighas of land valued at Rs. 30,000 were received free of cost.

Collection Department.

156. The total gross demand on account of the consolidated rate including the balance outstanding at the end of the previous year was Rs. 1,90,07,144, of which Rs. 1,74,96,567 was collected, Rs. 6,82,673 cancelled on account of holdings being vacant, and demands aggregating Rs. 16,931 were cancelled as irrecoverable. The percentage of collection on the net current demand was 98·09 against 98·18 in the previous year. The decrease in the percentage is slight, and is due mainly to the issue of a large number of fresh and supplementary bills and to other causes beyond the control of the Collector. The unrealised balance in the hands of the Collector at the end of the year was Rs. 3,36,157. There has been an increase in the outstanding in the Collection and Law Departments during the last few years. The question of their speedy disposal is engaging attention.

Licence Department.

157. The total receipt for the year 1929-30 on account of licence taxes amounted to Rs. 20,01,425 including Rs. 12,57,565 on account of tax on trades and professions, Rs. 4,22,745 tax on carriages and animals, Rs. 1,23,291 taxes under sections 179, 386 405, 396 and 413, Rs. 1,96,729 cart registration fees and Rs. 1,093 on account of fees, penalties and miscellaneous receipts. The total number of licences issued during the year was 73,199, and

the total collection under the Licensed Warehouse and Fire Brigade Act amounted to Rs. 1,48,968.

Lighting Department.

158. There were 18,481 gas lamps in the city at the end of the year, while the number of oil and electric lamps was 858 and 2,330 respectively. As in the previous year the electric lighting was maintained departmentally throughout the city. Proposals for the improvement of lighting in Cornwallis Street, Barrackpore Trunk Road, Cossipore Road, Harrison Road and at the important street corners throughout the city are pending before the Committee.

Water-supply.

159. The average daily quantity of filtered water supplied during the year amounted to about 49·4 million gallons and of unfiltered water to about 45·3 million gallons, making a total average of nearly 95 million gallons. The supply per head per day was 45·7 gallons of filtered water and 49·9 gallons of unfiltered water (based on the census population of 1921). With an additional supply of nearly 20 million gallons per day, the scarcity of filtered water-supply in the outlying areas has been considerably reduced except in Garden Reach. The arrangement for supplementing the supply by means of lorries continued in Maniktala and Garden Reach. To further reinforce the supply one additional tube-well was sunk in Maniktala.

Further progress was made with the works in connection with the Water-supply Extension Scheme. At Pulta, the new settling tank was completed and put in commission. A short length of the new masonry dam between the new settling tank and the pre-settling tank collapsed and was rebuilt after strengthening the foundation. The new engine house was brought into use early in the year, and the new plant put up by Messrs. C. A. Parsons and Company was taken over after the maintenance period. Out of the 18 new filter beds provided in the scheme, 11 have been handed over for charging with water. All works have been completed in 3, while the other 4 are being filled with sand. The construction of a boundary wall and a metalled road has been completed. At Pulta the new plant has been started. The claims of the contractor in connection with the new underground reservoir have been referred to arbitration. Towards the end of the previous year, the Corporation settled the dispute with the Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company who had contracts for the manufacture, supply and laying of pipes in prepared trenches. The contractors represented that they had incurred a minimum loss of £106,392 up to the end of February 1929 on account of the longer time over which the work had extended. The dispute was settled by the payment of a lump sum of £40,000 and £700 a month for 6 months up to August 1929 when the materials which

were not laid by them were taken over from the contractors. Omitting the main leading to Garden Reach, the total length of zone mains to be laid under various contracts in connection with filtered water-supply is 66,075 feet. Out of this a total length of 57,512 feet had been laid up to the end of the year under review.

Drainage.

160. The following schemes were prepared by the Drainage Department for the improvement of the internal drainage system:—

(1) A scheme for an independent drainage entity for the area to the west of Tolly's Nullah and Garden Reach. The estimated cost is Rs. 44 lakhs. Detailed plans for sewage disposal works have been prepared.

(2) A scheme for combining the drainage of Maniktala and Cossipore-Chitpore areas with the drainage system of Calcutta, including a super pumping station at Point A—Rs. 1,36,00,000.

(3) A scheme for lowering the water level in the Upper Circular Road sewer by utilising the existing intercepting sewer in Canal West Road and by extending it from Halsi Bagan to Chitpore Lock with a penstock on the Hooghly, through which stormwater is proposed to be discharged during rains. Estimated cost Rs. 12,10,000.

(4) Stormwater relief sewer in the new Juggernath Ghat Road Extension Scheme with necessary pumping plant. A portion of this scheme, which falls within the Trust boundary is being carried out by the Trust and the remaining portion between Strand Road and the river Hooghly will be executed by the Corporation. Estimated cost amounts to about Rs. 6 lakhs and the Corporation has decided to contribute half of the cost.

(5) Scheme for modification of the pucca sewage channel from Point A to Reflux Gate—Rs. 1,16,000.

(6) Scheme for the disposal of the surface water of the Cossipore-Chitpore area. Estimated cost Rs. 80,000.

(7) Scheme for augmenting the pumping power at Palmer's Bridge Pumping Station to deal with the increased water-supply. Estimated cost Rs. 3,06,000.

(8) Scheme for the installation of stormwater pumping plant at Ballygunge Pumping Station: In connection with C. I. T. Scheme No. XV—Rs. 10,77,000, and VIII and VIII-A—Rs. 6,30,000.

The following schemes were prepared for the external drainage system:—

(1) Scheme for a cut-off at Narayanpur at the junction of the Bidyadhari and the Peali rivers for the improvement of the Bidyadhari river.

(2) Survey and detail investigations into the possibilities of shifting the present outfall four miles further down to Boyer Nullah.

(3) Opening out of spill area in the southern Salt Lake near about Samukpota, for which detail contour survey of the Southern Salt Lake and connecting channels have been made.

The Corporation appointed Dr. B. N. Dey as a Special Officer for one year for preparing full reports, plans, detailed estimates and specifications for the concrete schemes of improvement detailed in the Bidyadhari Committee's Report (as adopted by the Corporation on the 4th August 1926) with such additions and modifications as present conditions and a detailed investigation may suggest. Dr. Dey's schemes for the improvement of internal drainage and for a new outfall have been approved by the Corporation after the year closed and submitted to Government for approval. Most of the important drainage and flood relief schemes were held up during the year for want of funds and the department was mainly engaged in maintenance and investigation work. It is proposed to reinforce the existing plant at the Ballygunge Pumping Station by the installation of a stormwater pumping plant there. At Maniktala all the gas engines are being thoroughly overhauled and 4 syphon pumping plants at Ultadanga, Maniktala, Narkeldanga and Belliaghatta are working satisfactorily and considerable relief has been given to the Maniktala area in regard to flooding during the rains. At the Palmer's Bridge Pumping Station, another new pumping plant and two new boilers are being erected.

The electrification of the 10 ft. 6 in. diameter penstock has been completed.

Bustee Department.

161. The action taken by the Bustee Department resulted in the clearance of 54 bighas of land from huts, in the construction of about 1¾ miles of bustee roads, 51 connected privies and 4 bathing platforms. Thirty-two private streets were also improved. Alignments were prescribed to regulate the construction of huts in 43 groups of bustees.

Conservancy.

162. The daily average quantity of refuse dealt with was 1,412 tons and the total expenditure on street cleansing, incinerator and the Municipal Railway amounted to Rs. 23,80,772.

Roads.

163. The total expenditure on repairs to roads and footpaths amounted to Rs. 13,53,581. In addition a sum of Rs. 3,95,341 was spent in paving roads with asphaltum and Rs. 2,48,992 for repairs to bituminous roads.

Building Department.

164. The total number of applications submitted for sanction was 9,968 against 9,954 in the previous year. Sanction was given to 27 per cent. of the plans received in the case of masonry buildings and 44 per cent. in the case of huts. No fewer than 2,352 notices were served in respect of insecure buildings against 2,770 in the previous year. The inspection and examination of old and insecure buildings by a special staff of 4 Building Inspectors was continued and a general survey of supported and projected verandahs on almost all important and wider roads has been taken in hand.

Health Department.

165. The total number of births registered during the year 1929 in the city including added areas was 22,789 or 21·1 per mille as compared with 22,001 births. This is equivalent to a birth-rate of 20·4 per mille in the preceding year. The total number of deaths registered during the year for the whole city including the added areas was 32,981 or 30·6 per mille against 34,119 deaths, or a death-rate of 31·6 per mille in 1928. There was a fall in the rate of mortality from small-pox (30 per cent.), enteric (11 per cent.), measles (72 per cent.), malaria (31 per cent.), kala-azar (21 per cent.), dysentery and diarrhœa (11 per cent.) and respiratory diseases (3 per cent.) as compared with the previous year. The figures for cholera, influenza and tuberculosis were the same as in the preceding year. There was an epidemic of cholera in the city during the year under report which was responsible for 2,571 deaths, or a death-rate of 2·4 per mille. The total number of deaths from small-pox was 393 with a death-rate ·36 per mille. Deaths among infants under one year numbered 5,913, the infantile mortality rate being 264·0 per 1,000 registered births as compared with 6,138 deaths or 278·9 per 1,000 births of the previous year.

The Lady Health Visitors and Midwives employed by the Corporation maintained their popularity and usefulness. They delivered 6,498 cases and removed 122 difficult cases of labour to hospitals. The number of infantile deaths among babies delivered by the Corporation staff was 133. Excluding 223 still births, the rate of infantile mortality within the first 10 days of birth attended by the Corporation staff was 21·1 per 1,000, while the general infantile mortality rate within the first week in the whole city was 86·3 per 1,000. There were only 10 maternal deaths among the mothers delivered by the Corporation staff.

Food Inspection.

166. The total number of samples of foodstuffs analysed was 5,862, of which 881 or 15 per cent. were found adulterated. Two hundred and sixty-three out of 874 samples of milk, 221 out of 1,468 samples of ghee, 20 out of 308 samples of butter, 74 out of 780 samples of sweetmeats, 328 out of 1,239 samples of mustard oil, 42 out of 117 samples of sago, 15 out of 92 samples of barley, 6 out of 276 samples of tea, 2 out of 10 samples of arrowroot, 4 out of 66 samples of dahi, 6 out of 119 samples of miscellaneous stuffs were found adulterated. One hundred and eighteen samples of rice were analysed, but only one of them was found damaged and unfit for human consumption. The total number of prosecutions disposed of during the year under review was 2,599: 1,690 of these cases ended in conviction and fines realised amounted to Rs. 24,334.

Markets.

167. The total revenue derived from the Municipal Markets during the year under review amounted to Rs. 12,97,959 as against Rs. 12,19,932 in the preceding year resulting in an improvement of Rs. 78,027 in the total collection. Towards the close of the year a new market was opened at the junction of Ballygunge Avenue and Lake Road in Ward 27. The establishment of another market in Ward No. 21 is in contemplation.

Education Department.

168. The total amount of expenditure incurred by the Corporation for educational purposes of all kinds amounted to Rs. 9,13,675 as against Rs. 8,50,254 in the previous year. At the end of the year there were 214 Corporation free primary schools with 26,470 pupils against 199 schools and 24,368 pupils in the previous year.

Of the total number of pupils on rolls, 15,472 were boys and 10,998 girls as compared with 14,824 boys and 9,544 girls at the end of the previous year. Of the total number of schools 7 were part-time schools and were held in the morning, while 207 were day schools, the corresponding figures of the preceding year being 10 and 189 respectively. At the close of the year there were 896 teachers in all the Corporation schools, of whom 588 were men and 308 women.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.

[Report on the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, 1929-30.]

Improvement schemes.

169. The most important works executed by the Trust in connection with street schemes during the year were the following:—The western extension up to Strand Road of the 84-foot road known as Maniktala Spur by means of Scheme No. VII-G (Jagannath Ghat Road—the section between Upper Chitpur

Road and Strand Road). The construction of the big stormwater-relief sewer was in land as far as Darmahata Street. In Improvement Scheme No. VIII-C (New Ballygunge Road—Park Circus to old Ballygunge Road) several new roads were constructed and opened to traffic. The linking up of Amherst with Loudon Street by a thoroughfare was commenced with the widening of Sashi Bhuson Dey Street (Improvement Scheme No. XXII). All the engineering works of Scheme No. XX which links up Dharamtola Street and Corporation Street by an 84-foot road was completed and the Corporation was asked to instal high power gas lighting at the cost of the Trust. In Scheme No. XXVI (Darpanarayan Tagore Street to Pathurea Ghat Street) the acquisition of land was pressed on. In Scheme No. XXVIII-A (widening of Strand Road) steps were taken for the acquisition of a strip of land from the Port Commissioners. All the alignments published by the Board in previous years were sanctioned by Government and no fresh alignment was published during the year.

Open spaces.

170. The lay-out of the area surrounding the lake in the Cossipore-Chitpore Park was taken in hand. The Eastern Park in Scheme No. VIII (near Park Circus) was completed and thrown open for public use. The Parks in Schemes Nos. XV-A (near Nepal Bhattacharjee Street) XV-B (near Lansdowne Road extension) and XVI (near Gangadhar Banarji Lane) were taken over by the Corporation. The extension of the Jorapukur Square was taken in hand and completed during the year.

Bridges.

171. Some progress was made in rebuilding the bridges at Calcutta which is hemmed in by canals and railway lines inadequately bridged. The Maniktala Bridge was handed over to the Irrigation Department during the year. The Balliaghata Bridge was completed and opened to traffic. Work on the Narkeldanga Bridge was in progress during the year.

Rehousing schemes.

172. Further rehousing schemes were not undertaken during the year. Special facilities were however afforded to dishoused persons for purchasing land for reinstatement purposes.

Finance.

173. Capital charges amounted to Rs. 78 lakhs which included Rs. 65,32 lakhs spent on land acquisition and Rs. 10,21 lakhs spent on engineering works. A debenture loan of Rs. 25 lakhs was raised. The receipts from the sale of lands amounted to about Rs. 34 lakhs. Sales under the right of pre-emption or as a part of exemption arrangements or for reinstatement yielded another Rs. 3 lakhs. The revenue receipts amounted to Rs. 55,02,617 and the expenditure to Rs. 32,19,323, leaving a surplus of Rs. 22,83,294. The gross expenditure of the trust on capital works was Rs. 11,64,94,750. To meet these expenditure the trust has

borrowed Rs. 2,98,50,000. Other capital receipts yielded Rs. 8,43,93,958 and the revenue fund from its annual surplus contributed nearly Rs. 3 crores to capital works.

Municipalities outside Calcutta.

Constitution and boundaries.

174. No change of real importance occurred in the constitution and boundaries of municipalities in Bengal in 1929-30. The passing of the Dum-Dum Cantonment replaced by the Dum-Dum Municipality was not, perhaps, without a shade of historical interest. The small municipality of Baruipur was suspended for incompetence arising out of local factions.

Population, ratepayers, and elections.

175. Out of a male population, excluding Calcutta, of 1,320,000 as recorded at the census of 1921, only 332,340 persons are ratepayers, and many of these not qualified to vote; while in no less than ten of the industrial boroughs with a large labour population ratepayers number less than one-tenth of the urban inhabitants. An unexpected result of the substitution of the rate on holdings for a rate on persons in Mymensingh was to reduce the rate-paying element below ten per cent. of population. But, especially in the smaller towns, those who possess the vote continue to exercise it with growing interest. There were only thirteen general elections and nine of them attracted over 75 per cent. of the voters to the polls. The Commissioners designate elected in Dacca in July 1928 who were awaiting the issue of Civil Court proceedings assumed their long expected office shortly after the end of the year under review.

Meetings.

176. As a measure of municipal activity it is usual to record the total number of meetings held—2,496 in 1929-30 as against 2,450 in 1928-29. At one extreme is the breathless energy of the Bansberia Municipality which held 119 meetings in 48 days (through some ingenious device of taking each subject at a special meeting as a separate special meeting). At the other extreme only two small municipalities fall three meetings short of the monthly standard. For the rest Divisional Commissioners uniformly record a reasonable number of meetings and a good percentage of attendance. It is to be remembered that with the scantiest exceptions the whole of this deliberative work goes on under a non-official executive and without official intervention; and there is no question of its spontaneous vitality.

Rates and taxes.

177. The alternative systems of rating in force in Bengal, on persons and on holdings, and a want of uniformity in the standards of municipal assessment make it impossible to speak in

the terms of the proceeds of an anna rate, and one of the most valuable data for financial comparison with other municipal systems is therefore lacking. It is, however, sufficiently significant of the lightness of the burden imposed by municipal rates that the average incidence per head on urban population for the province as a whole was only Rs. 3-8-10 (as against Rs. 3-5-11 in the preceding year), that in no town did it touch Rs. 10 per head, and that in no less than fourteen of the petty boroughs the incidence was actually below Re. 1 per head. Nevertheless it is a healthy sign that the total receipts from taxation rose by Rs. 3·78 lakhs to Rs. 71·52 lakhs. One interesting feature is that Darjeeling Municipality, which for many years has shown the heaviest figures for incidence of taxation per head, now stands below Howrah and Kurseong with the figure of Rs. 9-5-7 as against their Rs. 9-14 and Rs. 9-12, respectively. The appearance of Howrah at the head of the list of incidence is due apparently to vigorous collection of arrears and revision of assessment: while the fall of over one rupee per head in the incidence of taxation in Darjeeling seems to call for the scrutiny of the Municipal Board. Characteristic of the Councillors' conservatism, pressed it is to be feared to extremes in Bengal, is the refusal of the Burdwan Municipality to raise a lighting rate, though the installation of electric lighting clearly calls for the cost of this special service to be met by a rate *ad hoc* and not left a burden on the general fund. Revision as usual showed an increase in almost all cases, though the actual figures, subject as they are to the whittling away process of the Appeal Committee, cannot be relied on with any sense of finality.

Collections.

178. The total collection of rates increased from Rs. 66·4 to Rs. 69 lakhs, though a decrease in the percentage of collection on current demand from 94·45 to 92·87 detracts from the satisfactory impression to which these figures might give rise. The townships of Nalchiti and Garulia have, as usual, realised their full demand without remission and achieved this standard again; and seven others realised over 100 per cent. of their demand, the historical little town of Vishnupur touching 110 per cent! At the other extreme is the singular case of Serajganj, where the Appeal Committee's deliberations on the revision of assessment resulted in remission of *more than half* of the demand.

Outstanding arrears increased by nearly two lakhs of rupees to Rs. 18·76 lakhs and now actually total well over a quarter of the current demand. Howrah Municipality, following the example of her neighbour across the river, has allowed arrears to mount up to Rs. 6,66,000; and other serious instances of arrears are Dacca Rs. 2,46,000 and Hooghly and Mymensingh with three-quarters of

a lakh each on the rate roll of an ordinary district headquarters town. Howrah has undertaken a vigorous campaign to work off arrears; and Dacca hampered both by civil litigation and communal strife has made a praiseworthy effort to maintain stability. District Officers with the support of the Ministry persistently struggled to induce many townships to face squarely and resolutely this problem of accumulating arrears.

Income, expenditure and balances.

179. The total receipts including opening balances rose from Rs. 129·6 lakhs to Rs. 132·4 lakhs, the total expenditure from Rs. 114·6 lakhs to Rs. 117·6 lakhs, while the total balances remained stationary at Rs. 15 lakhs. It will at least adjust the perspective to observe that the total financial transactions of all municipalities outside Calcutta, including its important suburb of Howrah and the large town of Dacca, amount to about half the Calcutta Municipal Budget; and that their expenditure was approximately Rs. 5·4 per head of urban population as against five times this ratio in Calcutta! It is difficult to strike a medium in the balances between immobilising an excessive amount of the year's revenue and cutting the margin too fine for prompt settlement of liabilities. Dacca and Narayanganj perhaps erred on the former side and Mymensingh and Barisal on the latter. It is certain that if liabilities were strictly checked up against assets on the 31st March many municipalities would be faced with a deficit account: and that is one reason why Bengal municipalities as a whole possess practically no independent credit.

Education.

180. The total expenditure on education including the Government grant of Rs. 1·2 lakhs rose from Rs. 4·57 lakhs in the preceding year to Rs. 4·8 lakhs, the expenditure on primary education showing a corresponding increase of Rs. 15,500. The increase in the total expenditure was most marked in Jalpaiguri (Rs. 5,577) due to the construction of a building for a new primary school. There were also noticeable increases in Budge-Budge (Rs. 3,956) and Narayanganj (Rs. 3,536). The increase in the former was due to the establishment of an additional primary school, while that in the latter has not been explained. The expenditure fell considerably in Berhampore (Rs. 3,794) and there was no expenditure under this head in the new municipality of Dum-Dum and in the small municipalities of Dainhat and Gouripur. Fifteen municipalities spent less than 3·2 per cent. of their ordinary income which is the proportion a municipality is expected to spend on primary education, while the ratio was over 10 per cent. in seventeen municipalities. In Berhampore one free primary school of the Biss type was started in addition to the existing ones and another was nearing completion. South Dum-Dum also established three primary schools and Budge-Budge two

under that scheme. In Narayanganj the establishment of a few such schools was under contemplation, while in the Mymensingh district no scheme was started by any of the municipalities for imparting free primary education.

As a rule municipalities do not seem to have taken a sufficiently serious view of their duties regarding the education of the young children within their boundaries. Little advance has been made, and in more than one case schools have had to be abandoned owing to the inability of the municipality to provide the necessary money. Chittagong is a noteworthy exception. There the Municipal Commissioners have tackled the problem of illiteracy courageously and already made great progress. A very careful survey is being made of the work done there, and it is hoped in a short time that a completely satisfactory scheme will be in operation in the municipality which will not only deal adequately with the question of juvenile education in the area but also serve as a model and stimulus to other municipalities in the Presidency.

Water-supply.

181. Statistics for municipal expenditure on water-supply, unlike those of district boards, are dominated by the influence of a few individual schemes, and payments for construction at Raniganj, Dacca and Faridpur mainly account for an increase in the total expenditure under this head from Rs. 12·05 to Rs. 17·25 lakhs. The Patuakhali waterworks were completed and handed over to the municipalities; and, as is almost invariably the case, the effect of a supply from works on the reduction of cholera was remarkable.

One development which has come more into evidence since the year under review is a certain reaction against waterworks of the conventional type with a supply from one centralised source in favour of local tube wells. Brahmanbaria, for instance, have abandoned their waterworks scheme and surrendered grants exceeding Rs. 94,000 under this influence. Howrah have supplemented their supply from the Hooghly with two 5-inch tube wells and Baranagar have sunk a 2½-inch well with an electric pump. Various other municipalities are mentioned as relying on tube wells on a smaller scale. It remains to be seen whether a series of tube wells in a town can ever afford a supply of the same regularity, permanence, and tested purity as that from one centralised source through a municipal waterworks system; but certainly this is one of the developments to be reckoned with in future.

Conservancy and drainage.

182. With the completion of the Titagarh Sewerage Scheme, a most interesting model for the sewerage of an industrial borough,

there are now two towns in Bengal outside Calcutta possessing sewerage systems; and their proper control under an Act forty years old which contemplated nothing of the kind offers certain technical difficulties. For the rest conservancy is entirely dependent on sweeper labour; and the problem of obtaining and retaining this grows more and more troublesome. Dacca has introduced certain concessions, such as maternity leave, and it is gradually being realised that sweeper labour must be provided with quarters and not hovels. The total expenditure on conservancy, relieved of construction at Titagarh decreased from Rs. 33·7 lakhs to Rs. 25·14 lakhs and as usual municipalities shirked the burden of meeting the cost of this necessary, but wholly unremunerative, service out of the direct rate provided for the purpose, by encroaching on the general funds to the extent of over Rs. 6 lakhs. Expenditure on drainage, incurred mostly on petty works of paving and cleaning surface drains, increased from Rs. 3,71,000 to Rs. 5,58,000 as the result of construction in the industrial municipality of Bhatpara.

183. The growth of local electric supply companies is creating possibilities of improvement in the lighting of district headquarter towns out of all proportion to any increased expenditure involved. Rangpur changed over to electricity lights in its main streets and proposals are before several other municipal boards. The total cost of town lighting in Bengal was Rs. 6·56 lakhs, an increase of more than half a lakh over that for the previous year. While the total urban population of Bengal outside Calcutta are provided with municipal lighting at the average cost of four persons to the rupee per annum it is not to be wondered that in the majority of rural townships a handful of oil lamps is dignified with that name. Lighting.

184. This paragraph is concerned with the many-sided activities in this field of the Bengal municipal authorities rather than with the phases of public health prominent during the year. Expenditure on the pay of public health officers of various grades Rs. 1·91 lakhs was slightly below that of the previous year; but for no important reasons. A very few towns have not worked up to the standard of public health officer they are required to employ but in general there has been no reluctance to do so. The usual precautionary measures of disinfection and inoculation were taken wherever epidemic disease broke out; and if no towns was afflicted with such disease to a degree requiring special mention it is largely because this preventive work has become so much a matter of routine on its first appearance. The townspeople of Dacca showed an unexpected dislike for inoculation against cholera, after a marked advance in the previous year; but the vaccinator went Public health.

ahead where the inoculator retired and recorded the town's maximum figures for small-pox vaccination. Burdwan and Muktagacha municipalities are mentioned as employing female vaccinators. Malaria and kala-azar are diseases far less easily pinned down by urban prevention, but the work of the Birnagar Palli Mandal deserves its usual notice.

The Food Adulteration Act appears on the whole to have been vigorously administered by municipal health authorities, especially in Dacca, Mymensingh and Khulna; and 400 prosecutions in all are reported to have taken place, of which 346 ended in conviction. There are complaints that the sentences imposed are sometimes so light as practically to frustrate the labour of prosecution, a complaint which is after all not confined to urban health authorities in Bengal. The Ministry have recently been made acquainted with a practice in one or two towns of compromising prosecutions under the Food Adulteration Act in return for payments to the municipal fund and have expressed their disapproval of an expedient so obviously liable to abuse and tending to detract from the efficacy of the Act. Several municipalities report having held *dai* training classes with the aid of the Government grant for the purpose; and Chittagong with a characteristic touch of enterprise, finishes off the course with the presentation of a certificate and well-equipped midwifery bag to the *dai* completing the course; and maintains a trained midwife for free attendance at delivery cases in households whose earnings do not exceed Rs. 50 per mensem. It must be admitted that maternity welfare work in the rural towns is still in an elementary state, but at least the consciousness of the need for it has been aroused.

Public works.

185. The problem of urban communications presents the only feature of general interest under this head; and roads account for expenditure of Rs. 8,42,000 leaving just under Rs. 3 lakhs spent on other miscellaneous works. The expenditure on roads, and the mileage of roads, 1,330 miles metalled and 1,611 unmetalled, all alike show a reduction on figures of the previous year. This reduction in expenditure is not serious, significant as it is by contrast with the small degree of expansion noticed under other financial heads; but it is certainly symptomatic of the feeling in so many municipal boards that the task of maintaining urban roads up to modern standards under the pressure of motor traffic is slipping rapidly out of their grasp. It seems clear that municipalities have little to expect from the Central Road Fund, the proceeds of which are intended rather for the improvement of arterial highways; but it is to be hoped that legislation for the taxation of motor vehicles, on the lines of that recently carried

in Behar, will do something to supplement the resources of these local bodies for reconstruction and maintenance of the main town roads.

Apart from the financial question the problem of assigning responsibility between a district board and municipalities for short lengths of municipal road which form for all practical purposes part of a district highway has recently come into prominence. The district board of the 24-Parganas declined to continue a long-existing but not legalised understanding under which they repaired numerous roads in municipal areas, especially a continuous length known as the Ghosepara Road to the north of Calcutta. The disrepair of the road increased with dissensions as to the responsibility for its upkeep, until eventually the municipalities concerned faced the *de facto* position, while the district board is left responsible for certain detached lengths of municipal roads formally transferred to it by notification.

186. The total indebtedness of municipalities outside Calcutta amounted at the end of the year to Rs. 26·2 lakhs. This figure represents a very slight contraction notwithstanding the grant of loans of Rs. 1,60,000 to Dacca, Rs. 1,57,000 to Howrah, Rs. 75,000 to Narayanganj and Rs. 40,000 to Faridpur. New loans were granted for the improvement of water supply, and in Dacca also for conservancy improvements. The limited scale of capital commitments which the figures for total indebtedness imply, and the lack of independent credit which debars the average municipality from any prospect of borrowing in the open market dominate the loans position. Loans.

187. Emphasis was placed last year on the importance of strict and effective audit of municipal accounts coupled with publicity of the audit report and promptness in attention to defects revealed, if these local bodies are to realise the full measure of their status as self-governing institutions. In keeping with this policy the Ministry have directed the publication of the annual report of the Examiner of Local Accounts, and the report for 1928-29 was published this year. It would be mere duplication therefore to enter into the details even of the more important audits, and it will be enough to mention that, with the exception of serious defalcations in Darjeeling and Hooghly-Chinsurah and a few temporary misappropriations, audit in 1929-30 brought to light no major scandals in municipal administration. There is the same host of audit objections, which mere regularity of office procedure and attention to easily accessible rules would so often avoid, and the same complaint of delay in dealing with audit notes. Municipal administration in Bengal has a very long way to go before these criticisms disappear. Both defalcations mentioned were followed by Audit and accounts.

prosecutions which ended in the conviction of the culprit, but it must be confessed that in minor cases the tendency to accept restitution and drop proceedings too often prevails. Government have always set their face against this facile course, and no remarks could be more apposite than those in the Report of the English Ministry of Health for the year 1929-30: "The Minister desires to emphasise the necessity for local authorities to avoid any action in connection with the recovery of moneys misappropriated or wrongly retained which could possibly be considered as compounding the offence."

General remarks.

188. There is a sameness about the comments of Commissioners and local officers on the working of municipalities year by year which corresponds no doubt to the static condition of these bodies but makes it difficult to single out any special features in this annual review. The lack of that civic sense which renders cheerfully acceptable the burden of higher taxation in consideration of the urban benefits which this alone can confer, the fear among Municipal Commissioners of the unpopularity arising from imposing on townspeople standards above the common ideal the frustration by faction of the best intentioned efforts for the welfare and even the current routine administration of a rural township, such are the difficulties stressed in general comments this year as in many years preceding. It is dispiriting to read the opinion of a District Officer with wide experience of municipalities and no lack of sympathy with their endeavours that, if the paradox may be permitted, the municipality which worked best was that which had ceased to exist, its affairs having been entrusted to a single official nominee after supersession. Yet on the other hand there is general recognition that the elective and representative principle has become deep-seated in the consciousness of the classes to whom municipal franchise extends; and that if municipal bodies tend to sacrifice the more obvious material needs such as roads to meet the cost of public health measures and kindered services, they do so with a hearty goodwill for progress in the latter direction and with the support of the townspeople for their aims. In brief the balance sheet of Bengal municipal administration reads for better and worse much as it has read and for several years past, and as in all likelihood it will read for some years to come.

District Boards.

District and Local Boards.

189. There was no constitutional change during the year 1929-30 in the 26 district boards with their 683 members, but for one reason and another a slight set-back has occurred to the policy

of encouraging the election of non-official Chairmen. Local circumstances devoid of any political colouring necessitated the appointment of a non-official Chairman in Mymensingh early in the year under review. The hostility of the Bankura district board, under the influence of the former Chairman, to the union board movement led to his replacement by a nominated non-official, and after the latter's death by the District Magistrate; while finally since the close of the year under review the surrender of the Midnapore district board to political influences made it impossible to approve the election of its Chairman, and in his place also the District Magistrate was appointed.

There was practically no change in the organization of local boards, and none in their limited functions of electing for district boards, and exercising delegated powers of expenditure. The only official Chairmen on these 82 boards were those at Asansol appointed by Government on the request of the members and on three boards in the Darjeeling district, this arrangement continuing a long established practice due to local reasons. An increase in the total membership from 1,343 to 1,358 through the addition of members to two local boards in Howrah district was the only effective symptom of a tendency to amplify representation on local bodies.

Financial features.

190. The total receipts and expenditure of district boards in 1929-30 amounted to Rs. 1·49 crores and Rs. 1·52 crores representing a decrease of Rs. 7 lakhs in the former and a nominal increase in the latter. With a population of over forty-three millions to serve the financial transactions of the district boards are in fact only Rs. 31·5 lakhs above those of municipalities outside Calcutta with their population of two millions, and the incidence of income per head of population was only 5·2 annas. It is perhaps insufficiently realized how large a proportion of this so-called income of district boards is derived from grants from the State, which amounted approximately to Rs. 42·5 lakhs in 1929-30, so that the incidence of taxation for district board funds was no more than three annas per head. Revenue from cesses (Rs. 79·3 lakhs) continues to rise very slowly.

Education.

191. The income and expenditure amount to Rs. 22 lakhs and Rs. 37·5 lakhs against Rs. 22·1 and Rs. 36·6 lakhs, respectively. The receipt from Government contribution was more than Rs. 21 lakhs. The expenditure on primary education alone was Rs. 31·3 lakhs. The number of upper and lower primary schools maintained and aided by district boards increased from 47,900 to 49,090. The number of boys and girls attending these schools was about 1,320,000 and 321,300, respectively. There were 60

industrial schools maintained or aided by district boards imparting instruction to some 2,100 pupils in various subjects including carpentry, smithy, wickerwork, dyeing and weaving.

"Biss scheme" schools did not make any appreciable headway during the year in district board areas. Inability on the part of local bodies to produce their share of the cost led to the abandonment of certain sanctioned schemes and there was probably a general feeling that with the possibility of a Primary Education Bill receiving the sanction of the local legislature, efforts to establish such schools were not necessary.

It was not found possible during the year to provide money for the construction of any new panchayeti union schools.

Public Health and Medical Relief.

192. In the year 1926-27, which can suitably be taken as a standard year before the introduction of rural health units, the expenditure of district boards on public health and medical relief was just under Rs. 22 lakhs, with Government aid of Rs. 3·84 lakhs. In the year 1929-30 expenditure under this head had risen to Rs. 31·7 lakhs and State grants for the purpose to Rs. 11·11 lakhs. These figures are in themselves sufficient to show firstly the increased attention given by district boards to public health, and secondly the generous measure in which the State is accepting financial responsibility for measures for the protection of public health organized through the agency of these local bodies. Of the total expenditure Rs. 13·2 lakhs was devoted to the maintenance and aid of medical institutions, and Rs. 14·9 lakhs to the staff and activities associated with the improvement of public health.

The most prominent feature in public health work is the rapid spread of rural health units in charge of Sanitary Inspectors, financed by Government but administered by district boards. These had been established in 555 thanas by the end of 1929-30, and extended to the few thanas remaining to complete the scheme after its close.

There was the usual activity in precautions against cholera including preventive inoculation which continues to make headway. The Dacca district board experimented successfully with the distribution of "bili vaccine." Special efforts were made by certain districts with vaccination against small-pox, the figures of a quarter million vaccinations being approached in Khulna and exceeded in Faridpur. The usual steps were taken with Government aid against malaria and kala-azar, and the Burdwan district board in particular encountered a new public health problem in a virulent, if localised, outbreak of beri-beri. The Bankura district board paid particular attention to leprosy with the assistance of doctors trained under Dr. Muir.

The total number of dispensaries maintained or aided rose from 906 to 929. With the incentive of the State grant for new village and thana dispensaries the ideal of having at least one dispensary under a qualified practitioner in each thana is being rapidly approached. There is a tendency in some quarters to press for the opening of homœopathic and ayurvedic dispensaries partly on the grounds of economy. There are obvious disadvantages, however, in yielding too readily to the temptation to open such dispensaries on financial grounds rather than take advantage of the increased output of doctors from the new medical schools to establish institutions of which they are qualified to take charge.

Veterinary Work.

193. The immediate result of relieving district boards of a liability of about Rs. 70,000 per annum for the cost of anti-rinderpest serum has been to reduce the expenditure of district boards on veterinary services by more than half of that amount from Rs. 2,12,500 to Rs. 1,78,000. The only noteworthy feature in veterinary work is a scheme of the Dacca district board for expansion in future, when the law permits, at the joint cost of the district board and union boards; but even this board spent less on actual veterinary work in 1929-30 than in 1928-29.

Civil Works.

194. Expenditure on public works amounted to Rs. 58·5 lakhs, of which only Rs. 33·2 lakhs was spent on communications against Rs. 36·5 lakhs in 1926-27. This reduction of three lakhs in expenditure on roads falls almost entirely under original works; and, if district boards find it difficult to keep up their expenditure on communications, it is all to the good that they should not add to a mileage already beyond their capacity to maintain in good repair. At the same time it is necessary to sound a note of warning against this rapid downward trend in expenditure on roads, which with the increased motor traffic have assumed a new importance in contributing to the prosperity and amenities of a district. Grants have been sanctioned from the central road fund for the reconstruction of seven district board roads, grants which it may be mentioned should not result in reducing the pre-existing expenditure of these boards on their roads. It is hoped, moreover, that before long legislation will be introduced placing a levy on motor traffic for the benefit of the roads to which this owes its existence, on the lines of that recently passed in Bihar and Orissa.

Water-supply.

195. A reduction in expenditure on water-supply, from Rs. 8·3 lakhs in 1928-29 to Rs. 7·6 lakhs in 1929-30 is partly traceable to Burdwan district board, which had to cut short an ambitious programme of construction into which it was tempted by its windfall from the coal mines. The postponement of half the Government grant for water-supply payable in 1928-29 till 1929-30 for

reasons explained to the Public Accounts Committee may also have served to retard construction by district boards in 1929-30. There has certainly been no real decrease in interest in improving sources of water-supply. The district board of the 24-Parganas, for instance, sank another 132 tube-wells in addition to over a thousand already sunk, and the Faridpur and Jessore boards report sinking 327 and 248 tube-wells, respectively.

Progress with the scheme for granting loans to district boards for improvement of their water-supply has been slow. It was not till October 1929 that the principles of the scheme finally took shape and were communicated to district boards for submission of their proposals in accordance with it. Naturally no expenditure was possible on sanctioned projects during 1929-30, and a beginning had hardly been made with actual expenditure in the current financial year, when the imperative need for retrenchment involved surrender of funds available for loans leaving provision only for Burdwan and Howrah districts. Nor can it be said that there has been great alacrity on the part of district boards in submitting projects for approval in conformity with the lines finally adopted.

General Remarks. 196. During the year 1928-29 and in the following months the Ministry of Local Self-Government have for the first time been faced with the problem presented by the exploitation by the Chairman and majority of a district board of their position on the board to attack the policy and authority of Government. The position was met in both cases by temporary reversion to the system in force before 1920 of appointing the District Magistrate as Chairman, a measure which, so far as can be seen, will be sufficient in itself to restore harmonious relations between the local body and Government. The District Magistrates who have been asked to assume these responsibilities have cheerfully undertaken the task, in the face of a majority hostile at the outset and have succeeded in preserving uninterrupted the existence of the representative local body which but for their assistance must almost inevitably have ceased to function.

Apart from these abnormal cases Commissioners continue to report well on the whole of the activities of district boards under their non-official Chairmen. There is certainly more sense of development and constitutional growth in the record of district boards year by year than in that of municipalities. The non-official Chairman with his wide influence and responsibilities comes more and more into evidence as a new factor in the organic constitution of provincial local self-government. The Conference of Chairmen of district boards held in Darjeeling in October 1930 may be said to have marked a quite definite advance in the self

expression of the non-official Chairman as an expert and responsibly minded representative of the district board on questions of fundamental importance to these bodies; and proved for that reason of the greatest assistance to the Ministry.

The reports of Divisional Commissioners for the year focus attention on two particular administrative problems neither of which has yet been directly tackled. One is the tendency of district boards to fritter away their limited resources, especially those for public works, by lack of any deliberate programme and want of adherence to the budget, which results in impulsive additions to the list of projects in hand in response to purely local or personal considerations. The other is the growing need for regularising the control by district boards of large fairs and gatherings, in the interests of public health, with some system for financing the measures necessary out of the profits derived by one party or another from these occasions. In the background lies the necessity of overhauling the Local Self-Government Act as a whole, on which Chairmen were asked to advise of the Darjeeling Conference. All Commissioners draw attention to the financial limitations of district boards, it being pointed out for instance that the increase derived by a district board from the revision of the cess, considerable as it may appear at first sight, is all a board has to look forward to from this source for several years. The whole finances of district boards rest at present on local taxation of less than three annas per head; and no problem is of greater moment for the future of local self-government than that of finding funds within the district for expenditure by representatives of the district on the material and social welfare of its inhabitants.

CHAPTER IVA.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, for the year 1929-30.]

Administration.

197. Dr. G. P. Hector, Economic Botanist, held charge of the department till 8th February 1930, when Mr. R. S. Finlow took over charge on return from leave.

The post of Inspector of Agricultural Schools in the Bengal Lower Agricultural Service was created and filled during the year.

Research and Experiment.

198. In accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India a Provincial Agricultural Research Committee has been constituted. The main functions of the Committee are to co-operate with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in matters connected with the advancement of agricultural and veterinary research and to act as a connecting link between that body and agricultural activities in this Presidency. A great impetus to research has been given by the facilities offered by the central institution, and no fewer than ten schemes were put forward by the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments, the Dacca and Calcutta Universities and the Viswa-Bharati Santiniketan, for consideration at the first meeting of the Provincial Committee held at Darjeeling in May last. A grant obtained last year from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research enabled the Dacca University to found an Agricultural Research Fellowship. Grants have also been sanctioned by the Imperial Council during the current year to the University of Calcutta towards the schemes for research into the properties of colloid soil constituents by Professor J. N. Mukherji and into agricultural statistics by Professor P. C. Mahalanabis. It is hoped that the closer association of the Dacca and Calcutta Universities, which are strongly represented on the Provincial Committee, in the work of agricultural research will have valuable results.

Work in all sections at the Central Research Station at Dacca progressed on approved lines. Jute and sunn hemp engaged attention in the Fibres Section, sugarcane and tobacco in the Chemical, and paddy, pulses and fodders in the Botanical Section.

Agricultural education.

199. The scheme for a Dairy Section at the Dacca Farm which was intended to provide facilities for training in dairying on modern lines has been hanging fire for want of funds.

The experimental scheme for the teaching of agriculture in high English and middle English schools on the Punjab system has now reached an interesting stage. The first batch of teachers under training completed their two years' course at the Dacca school in December last and went back to their respective schools to take charge of the agricultural classes.

The preliminary work of organising the agricultural classes, reclaiming and levelling the fields for the purpose of gardens and farms and providing the schools with necessary implements is now engaging the attention of the Inspector of Agricultural Schools. The training to be imparted will be as far as possible of practical nature.

Twenty-seven ordinary students and two departmental demonstrators also received training at the Secondary Agricultural School. Progress has been satisfactory, especially on the practical side.

Useful work continued to be done at the primary schools attached to the sericultural nurseries.

The first batch of five youths of the bhadralok class who completed their practical training in agriculture at the Faridpur agricultural farm have been provided with accreted khas mahal land in that district for cultivation. It is reported that they have made a good start; they have cleared jungle, built houses and cultivated jute and *aus* and *aman* paddy on their holdings.

200. One new farm at Rajbari, Faridpur district, was started during the year. Rs. 2,200 of the cost of this farm was contributed by local subscription. The Noakhali farm which received administrative approval of Government last year is not likely to materialise as the site will be required for a new civil station owing to continued erosion of the present district headquarters by the river Meghna. **Farms.**

During the year the number of private farms rose to 140, viz., 82 in Western Bengal, 48 in Northern Bengal and 10 in Eastern Bengal. These farms which work in collaboration with the department and grow departmental crops serve as useful centres for the propagation of improved methods recommended by the department.

201. About 2,670 maunds of jute seed were distributed during the year, viz., 2,000 maunds of D. 154 and 670 Chinsura Green. **Seed distribution.**

About 10 lakhs of cuttings of Co. 213 and 22,000 of Yellow Tanna sugarcane were supplied from the Government farms.

During the year 247 paddy seed farms were in operation being managed by co-operative societies, union boards, Government

estates, agricultural associations, private bodies and local landholders. The total supply of pure paddy seed from all sources was 13,000 maunds of which Government farms supplied about 1,000 maunds. The pure seed raised in Government farms is utilised for stocking new seed farms and for renewing the seed of old farms.

Cattle breeding.

202. In the cattle improvement programme of the Bengal Agricultural Department the two cardinal principles of evolving a suitable type of animal and of providing nutritious food for cattle continue to be followed. Promising results with fodder crops have been obtained.

The premium bull system is reported to have worked satisfactorily. The full number of twenty premiums were granted during the year. Ten new co-operative bull societies were formed during the year making a total of 19. Some of the societies formed in the preceding year are reported to be settling down to useful work now.

Departmental bulls served 1,130 cows in the year. The demand for stud bulls was in excess of the animals available. In addition to bulls issued from Dacca and Rangpur purchases had to be made from outside.

Agricultural engineering and irrigation.

203. Administrative approval was accorded after the close of the year to the scheme for the entertainment of additional staff required for the workshop of the Agricultural Engineer. Although the lack of requisite staff was a handicap, the Agricultural Engineer was able to carry out a considerable amount of repair work at his workshop. He has also shown commendable energy in designing improved ploughs and sugarcane-crushing and juice-boiling machinery.

A scheme for a course of training of apprentices at the Agricultural Engineer's workshop has been approved. It is proposed to admit at present six apprentices for an eighteen months' course. The syllabus will consist of practical training in the workshop for twelve months. During the remaining six months they will be employed on the working of oil engines, pumps, cane-mills and ensilage cutters. This scheme will involve no additional expenditure, and it is hoped to give effect to it when the full complement of the workshop staff is sanctioned. Pending introduction of this scheme the Agricultural Engineer has been authorised to train a few apprentices.

The irrigation experiment on *boro* paddy in the *haor* tract in south-east Mymensingh was continued under the supervision of the Agricultural Engineer. An average yield of 28¾ maunds of

grain per acre over 25 acres has been reaped while 4 or 5 maunds per bigha were produced by the local cultivators by *don* irrigation. The experiment may therefore be regarded as a safe basis for extension to larger areas. A second experiment of this kind was initiated at Mirpur, Dacca district, by the Burma Shell Oil Company in collaboration with the Agricultural Engineer. This experiment was intended to supply water to cultivators on payment. The experiment, however, did not prove to be a success financially, partly because the local cultivators have not fully appreciated its meaning and partly because of a fairly favourable season in regard to rain.

Agricultural associations.

204. In the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, Khulna and Jessore district, Agricultural associations maintained their own farms. Burdwan District Agricultural Association established a demonstration plot from which cuttings of Co. 213 were distributed to members. The Howrah District Agricultural Association carried on propaganda through its organ "Gramer Dak" and maintained a seed store. The Hooghly District Agricultural Association, which is the best organised and is most successful, is actively engaged in disseminating departmental improved crops and in popularising departmental recommendations generally. A few subdivision and village associations also did useful work in demonstrating improved departmental crops. The co-operative associations at Dewanganj (Dacca) and Tangi (Dacca) were active in establishing paddy seed farms and in arranging for the store of produce from harvest until seed time. The Naogaon (Rajshahi) Co-operative Society has done excellent work and has now established a demonstration farm. Co-operative societies in Bogra have largely assisted the establishment of paddy seed farms.

Sericulture.

205. In spite of slackness of business owing to the world-wide trade depression and severe competition in the real and artificial silk market, Bengal silk found a ready sale. The Government nurseries produced over 18,000 kahons of seed cocoons, i.e., 1,000 more than in the preceding year, while the selected rearers succeeded in raising and selling over a quarter of a lakh of kahons. The total receipts from the Government nurseries remained the same as in previous year (Rs. 58,000), but according to the financial statement they worked at a loss of about Rs. 63,000 in both this and in the preceding year. Although the aim of the Sericultural Department is to promote the silk industry in Bengal by the propagation of disease-free seeds of selected strains of silkworm to the rearers from the Government nurseries, the time has now come when new measures must be adopted not only to improve the quality of silk but also to lower the cost of its production.

Much progress has been made in the direction of issuing pebrine-free seeds and in dealing with other diseases, like muscardine. After pursuing a more intensive policy of manuring mulberry lands in the Government nurseries since 1923-24 the department is now in a position to make recommendations regarding the effect of manuring on increasing the production of leaf.

Another important line of progress is the introduction of tree mulberry cultivation wherever possible. In the Government nurseries the number of tree mulberries in various stages of maturity now approximate to 20,000. Active propaganda is in progress with the object of inducing rearers to take up tree mulberry cultivation.

The value of co-operation is now understood by those engaged in this industry. In the district of Malda a great advance has been made in this direction. There are about 100 societies working in the district, of which 32 with over 500 members are affiliated to the Bengal Co-operative Silk Union, Limited.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for the year 1929-30, Crop Forecasts of Bengal for the year 1929-30, and Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.]

Character of the season.

206. In East Bengal and parts of North Bengal, insufficient rainfall in March hindered preparatory tillage for autumn crops and deep-water paddy. Good showers in April facilitated operations and sowings proceeded freely in low land tracts. Rainfall in May was defective, but not altogether unfavourable, though preparatory tillage for winter rice was hindered in some West Bengal districts. Heavy rainfall in June, while damaging lowland crops in parts of East Bengal and causing premature harvesting of jute and other autumn crops was favourable to agricultural operations for winter paddy. A weak monsoon hindered seed-bed operations for, and subsequent growth of, transplanted winter paddy. Good rain in October materially increased the outturn of the transplanted rice crop which had suffered considerably from previous drought. Dry weather in November was helpful to the sowings of spring crops and winter rain in December was generally beneficial, especially for late crops. On the whole the season was fair for autumn crops and satisfactory for winter and spring crops.

Chap. IV.-A. PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1929-30 of *bhadoi*, *aghani* and *rabi* crops as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year:—

Name of harvest.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1928-29 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1929-30 in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn per acre how much represent the outturn for the year.	
				1928-29.	1929-30.
Bhadoi	9,709,900	9,274,200	8,896,000	95	75
Aghani—					
Winter rice	16,529,900	15,357,400	14,793,700	105	95*
Sugarcane	200,300	195,800	197,600	81	82
Other sugar producing plants	56,600	51,000	52,200	..	..
Rabi	4,562,300	3,824,300	3,893,000	79	80
Total ..	31,059,000	28,702,700	27,832,500	..	..

* Director's estimate.

207. Insufficient rainfall till the middle of April hampered preparatory tillage and sowings, but later good showers favoured growth and development, except in some East Bengal districts, where rainfall was too heavy, and early rise of rivers caused damage to low land crops. Subsequent conditions were generally favourable and the season was a fair one, on the whole. The outturn of the different *bhadoi* crops for the Presidency was estimated at 75 per cent. of the normal as against 95 per cent. last year. Bhadoi crops (excepting jute).

208. The sowing season was favourable in East and North Bengal, though drought in February-March hindered operations in certain areas. Good showers in April ultimately resulted in heavier sowings than last year. The rainfall in early June was heavy in parts of East Bengal and caused water-logging in low-land tracts. Early rise of rivers in parts of North and East Bengal did some damage and necessitated premature harvesting in lowlands. The highland crop, on the other hand, fared well. In the Western districts drought affected early sowings, and growth was not uniform. Later sowings generally thrived better. Subsequent conditions were favourable for harvesting, except in parts of North and West Bengal where there was lack of steeping water until September. Jute.

Area and outturn, excepting Cooch Bihar and Tripura States, were respectively returned at 2,913,722 acres and 8,656,839 bales of 400 lbs. each.

209. In East and North Bengal weather was generally unfavourable in the early part of the season for field operations Winter rice crops.

connected with deep-water paddy. Rainfall in May, though defective, helped germination, but heavy falls in early June damaged the crop in places. The conditions favoured sowing seed-beds for transplanted winter paddy but the weak monsoon resulted in a less area than last year being transplanted. The growth of the transplanted crop was retarded by drought, especially in highland tracts and was only saved by good rain in October, which largely restored the situation and made the season a favourable one, on the whole.

The average outturn for the province worked out at 90 per cent. of the normal as against 105 per cent. last year.

Sugarcane.

210. The weather was favourable although some damage was caused by drought in the beginning and later by flood in parts of Eastern Bengal. Subsequently favourable condition supervened and the crop was a fairly satisfactory one.

The outturn for the province worked out at 82 per cent. of the normal this year as against 81 per cent. last year.

Rabi crops.

211. The rainfall during the month of October was heavy throughout the province, except in some eastern districts, with the result that field operations for early spring crops were somewhat delayed. Dry weather in the early part of November was advantageous for completion or sowings, but its continuation to the middle of December adversely affected the growth of some early crops. Rainfall in the latter part of the month improved prospects and slight showers in January assisted development of late crops. On the whole the season was a satisfactory one.

The outturn of the different *rabi* crops for the province worked out at 80 per cent. of the normal this year as against 79 per cent. last year.

Cotton.

212. As a result of favourable weather at the time of plucking, the early crop gave a higher yield than that of last year. The outturn of the late variety was fair, on the whole, and quality was reported to be better than usual.

The total outturn of cotton (both late and early) excepting the Tripura State was estimated at 18,193 bales this year as against 14,738 bales last year.

Area under cultivation.

213. The total cropped area is estimated to be 27,832,500 acres this year as against 28,702,700 acres last year.

Chap. IV-A. PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

The figures for the principal crops are shown in the table:—

Name of crop.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1928-29 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1929-30 in acres.
Rice	23,044,800	21,403,900	20,224,600
Other food-grains including pulses and *marua* ..	1,780,100	1,429,000	1,456,900
Jute	2,310,300	2,667,300	2,913,700
Oilseeds	1,397,100	1,037,700	1,025,300
Tobacco	245,700	291,200	295,400
Sugarcane	200,300	195,800	197,600

Prices.

214. Owing to satisfactory harvests during the previous two seasons the prices of rice fell during harvest time. The prices of jute further declined owing to over-production of fibre and lack of demand for manufactured goods.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1929-30.]

Administration.

215. Rai Bahadur J. M. Mitra held the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies till 11th February 1930, when he was succeeded by Rai S. K. Ganguly Bahadur.

In order to offer an opening to deserving and meritorious officers already serving in the Co-operative Department, one post of Assistant Registrar had been filled by the promotion of a departmental officer in 1928. Two posts were, during the year, excluded from the cadre of the Bengal Civil Service and permanently filled by the selection of two officers—one belonging to that service and the other by a member of the Bengal Junior Civil Service who had served in the department for a long time and had already held the post of Personal Assistant to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for nearly five years. It has been decided that appointment to these three posts when they next fall vacant will be made by selection of departmental officers. The remaining posts continue to be filled by members of Bengal Civil Service.

Another important decision reached during the year was in regard to the procedure to be followed in making provision for the staff required from year to year for the audit of societies. With the exception of infant and anti-malaria societies the cost

of audit of which is borne by Government, fees are levied from the other classes of societies for meeting the cost of the staff employed in auditing them. Difficulty was, however, experienced in making provision for the necessary addition to the audit staff in the budget through the schedule as funds available for new expenditure were limited. It has been decided that as the receipts from audit fees increase automatically from year to year, there should be corresponding increase in the number of auditors, the provision for the increased staff being made direct in the budget. In accordance with this decision 60 additional auditors were sanctioned and appointed during the year under report, while 53 posts of auditors have been added since the close of the year.

Development.

216. The total number of societies at the end of the year was 22,532 an increase of 2,655 societies during the year or 13·3 per cent. against 9·7 per cent. in the previous year. The number of members rose from 706,572 to 750,137 or by 6·1 per cent. as against 11·1 per cent. in the previous year. The total working capital of all these societies rose from Rs. 12,88,20,317 to Rs. 14,83,02,462 or by 15·1 per cent.

Agricultural credit.

217. The number of agricultural credit societies rose from 16,930 to 19,198. The percentage of credit societies to the total number of societies of all kinds was 85·2 per cent., i.e., practically the same as in the preceding year. The number of members rose from 408,980 to 457,621 and the total working capital of these societies from Rs. 4,21,00,000 to Rs. 4,90,00,000. The societies derived 67 per cent. of their working capital from Central Banks and the total of reserve funds built up by them increased from Rs. 65,51 lakhs to Rs. 79,49 lakhs. The total repayment of these societies fell from Rs. 1,14,77 lakhs to Rs. 1,00,50 lakhs during the year under report. The depressed condition of the jute and the paddy markets and the expenses incidental to the celebration of a large number of marriages among the illiterate classes in anticipation of the passing of the Sarda Act account largely for this poor collection. The total amount of overdues rose in consequence from Rs. 118,29 lakhs or 29·4 per cent. to Rs. 160,04 lakhs or 34·4 per cent. The steady increase in overdues from 1925-26 is naturally disquieting though from an exaggerated sense of security which is based on a wrong impression of the implications of the unlimited liability and from a failure to appreciate that the speedy realisation of such security on any large scale would be impossible and would in any event result in the ruin of the members for whose benefit the movement has been initiated, the gravity of the situation is sometimes not sufficiently realised. It has, however, to be remembered as some set off against the pessimism which might be induced otherwise that a certain

amount of elasticity in repayments is inseparable from agricultural finance. The return of investments in agriculture depends on the uncertainties of weather. If, however, an average number of years is taken the cultivator gets a good return. When therefore his crops fail or there is a depression in the market for his produce the cultivator is not only unable to repay his debts but requires further credit in order to tide over bad times. Not an inconsiderable part of the overdues are sums for which there are valid grounds for default and the security is excellent, but for which no extension of time has been granted or even if granted the amount covered by the extension has not been excluded in calculating the overdues. When, however, the default is due to injudicious fixation of kists as is sometimes the case or is wilful and the panchayets fail in their duty to take steps, then action is called for. A substantial part of the overdues can be traced to the last mentioned cause, for the evil is one which cannot be eradicated until the defects in the present system are removed and until through continued and systematic co-operative education the members begin to realise that punctuality and strictness are essential to success.

Agricultural Societies other than credit.

(i) Purchase and purchase and sale societies.

218. The number of societies of this type increased from 100 to 108, their total membership from 28,982 to 31,606 and their total working capital from Rs. 37,15,741 to Rs. 48,26,012. Societies of this class include those organised for marketing of jute to which great interest attaches. These societies did not prove a success owing to their faulty organisation and inefficient management as also owing to the fluctuations in the Calcutta market and other speculative elements which render business risky and uncertain. The financial and other aspects of these societies received anxious attention during the year and they have been placed under liquidation since its close.

In the paddy sale section the Chetla branch of the Central Paddy Sale Society in Calcutta was closed down, while the central paddy sale and supply society continued to prosper. Two other prosperous societies in this section are those at Gosaba in the 24-Parganas and at Khepupara in the Bakarganj-Sunderbans. The Bakarganj-Sunderbans Central Sale and Supply Society erected a rice mill called the Donovan Co-operative Rice Mill at an outlay of about two lakhs of rupees. The Gosaba Paddy Sale and Supply Society with the rice mill attached to it continued to work well, though it was naturally somewhat affected by the unfavourable state of the market.

The only other important sale society was the Naogaon Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society. Owing to the withdrawal of licence in consequence of the reduction in the total area licensed

for the cultivation of *ganja* there was a slight fall in the total membership from 3,914 to 3,906 but the share capital increased from Rs. 45,640 to Rs. 45,660. The total working capital stood at Rs. 6,72,485 and would have been larger but for the withdrawal of current deposits towards the end of the year by the Naogaon Central Bank and the Naogaon Ganja Mahal Bank which have however re-deposited the sums since the close of the year. Besides the production and sale of *ganja* the society enjoys the monopoly for the sale of *bhang* imported from Bihar. It sold 3,860 maunds of *ganja* and 390 maunds of *bhang* as against 4,058 maunds and 398 maunds in the preceding year. The fall in the sale of *ganja* was due mainly to the political movement directed against this sale in the latter part of the year as also to the cultivation of *ganja* in Bihar. The society contributed Rs. 33,185 towards the cost of the excise establishment in the ganja mahal. The cultivators got a fair price for their crop, while the profits of the society were sufficient to enable it to spend Rs. 26,170 on numerous works of public utility in the locality.

(*ii*) Irrigation societies.

219. The total number of irrigation societies rose from 773 to 887 with a corresponding increase in membership from 20,133 to 22,616. This movement continued to be confined mainly to the Western Bengal districts where the total area irrigated by these societies is 150,000 bighas.

(*iii*) Co-operative Agricultural Associations.

220. The number of co-operative agricultural associations increased from 32 to 35.

Production and sale societies.

Milk societies.

221. The total number of milk societies in Bengal rose from 169 to 242. The most important group consists of societies in the Baraset and Bongong subdivisions which are affiliated to the Calcutta Milk Union. The total amount realised by the Calcutta Milk Union by the sale of milk during the year rose from Rs. 6,22,769 to Rs. 6,40,741, though its profits fell from Rs. 25,193 to Rs. 20,172. The building of the Darjeeling Milk Union was completed during the year and a pasteurising plant set up. The milk unions at Dinajpur and Shahzadpur worked at a small profit. The Naogaon Milk Union had to struggle aganist great odds owing to the difficulty of communications with its affiliated societies which are not situated in a compact block. The milk societies organised at Balurghat are reported to have increased the supply of milk available in the locality, a feature which is appreciated by the local public. The prosperity of the Dacca Milk Union was retarded by the communal disturbance at Dacca during which its operations were for a time being brought to a standstill. The Chittagong Milk Union organised 10 societies all of which are situated near about the town. The Uttarpara Milk Society in the district of Hooghly promises well.

Agricultural credit societies.

222. The number of non-agricultural credit societies increased from 410 to 456 and with a few exceptions they are on the basis of limited liability. Their membership increased from 143,028 to 147,573, the total paid up share capital from Rs. 52,47 lakhs to Rs. 58,90 lakhs and their reserve funds from Rs. 13,19 lakhs to Rs. 15,90 lakhs. The total profits earned by them rose from Rs. 7,78 lakhs to Rs. 8,45 lakhs. The dividends payable to the shareholders continued to be restricted to 12½ per cent. Deposits from members rose from Rs. 52,73 lakhs to Rs. 57,16 lakhs and those from non-members from Rs. 97,35 lakhs to Rs. 116,32 lakhs. A small fraction of the working capital amounting to about Rs. 6·5 lakhs was obtained from Central Banks. These societies among the urban population have promoted the development of thrift amongst their members while they enjoy the confidence of the investing public also. The total amount of new loans issued amounted to Rs. 212,6 lakhs against Rs. 183,08 lakhs in the previous year while repayments on account of loans old and new rose from Rs. 130,61 lakhs to Rs. 175,18 lakhs. The total amount of loans outstanding at the close of the year increased from Rs. 205,36 lakhs to Rs. 238,89 lakhs but the percentage of overdues fell from 11·4 per cent. to 10·7 per cent. In addition to the provision of credit on reasonable terms to the urban population some of these societies helped a great deal by the introduction of cheques and demand drafts, etc., to encourage the habit of banking and to provide banking facilities.

Stores societies.

223. The number of these societies fell from 69 to 56 and their total membership from 10,532 to 6,523. The total amount of sales during the year amounted to Rs. 3,89 lakhs on which a profit of Rs. 7,093 was realised by the societies of this class taken together.

Weavers' Society.

224. The total number of weavers' societies in the province rose from 292 to 316 and their membership from 5,156 to 5,405, while the working capital increased from Rs. 4,26 lakhs to Rs. 5,09 lakhs.

Silk societies.

225. The number of societies formed among cocoon rearers increased from 81 to 86 out of which 69 are in Malda district alone. Of these, 34 are affiliated to the Bengal Silk Union and the remaining work on credit basis. The working capital of all these societies taken together increased very slightly and stood at Rs. 99,674 but the amount of profit earned by them declined to Rs. 2,017. The working capital of the Bengal Co-operative Silk Union increased from Rs. 86,923 to Rs. 88,573. It financed rural co-operative silk societies and disposed of the produce of the members and non-members. As a result of its working it earned a profit of Rs. 5,028 during the year.

Artisan's societies.

226. The Dinajpur Tin Plate Workers' Society worked on a factory basis and purchased machinery worth about Rs. 1,500. It has made a good beginning in spite of initial difficulties and has received the patronage of the local bodies. The Madhyamgram Chikan Society continued to work well in the face of keen competition. The working of the conch-shell workers' societies at Dacca is capable of much improvement. The Brahmanberia Brazier Society worked during the year at a small loss which is attributed to general trade depression. The lac growers' societies in Malda did not show any signs of improvement. The Illumbazar Toy Makers' Society in Birbhum could not find a ready market for its finished products.

Fishermen's societies.

227. The number of societies of this class increased from 108 to 110. Generally speaking these societies have not been able to make much headway.

House-building societies.

228. The Darjeeling House Building Society has 22 members to whom 24 building plots were allotted. Sixteen members completed the construction of their buildings. The Dacca House Building Society assisted in the construction of 7 houses in Dacca. The House Building Society at Mymensingh did not commence work. The Char Fason Society is forging ahead.

Anti-malarial and Public Health Societies.

229. The total number of anti-malarial and public health societies rose during the year from 662 to 758 and their membership from 15,620 to 17,014. Many of these societies have been doing very useful work within their areas.

Rural reconstruction societies.

230. Some of the societies for village reconstruction at Birbhum district under the rural reconstruction department of Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore at Bolpur continued to do useful work as before.

Women's organisations.

231. The total number of co-operative organisations among women rose from 6 to 8, of which 5 were in the Presidency Division alone. Most of these societies are doing useful work.

Relief societies.

232. The Bengal Police Co-operative Benefit Fund and the Bengal Secretariat Death Benefit Society continued to promote thrift on the part of their members.

Central banks.

233. The number of central banks increased from 112 to 116—the 4 new organisations being at Jhenidah in Jessore, Kaliganj in Dacca, Chandan Bausia in Bogra and Laksam in Tippera. The Central Bank at Jhenidah did not however commence work during the year. The total number of affiliated societies rose from 17,019 to 19,071 or by 12·5 per cent. The total working capital increased from Rs. 392·76 lakhs to Rs. 455·71 lakhs or by 16·02 per cent. Deposits from individuals amounted to Rs. 260·02

lakhs as against Rs. 226·28 lakhs in the previous year. The deposits represent 57 per cent. of the total working capital of central banks as in the preceding year. There was an increase in the total paid-up share capital from Rs. 45·83 lakhs to Rs. 51·52 lakhs while the reserve and other funds increased from Rs. 22·74 lakhs to Rs. 26·51 lakhs. The total amount derived from these sources, viz., paid-up share capital and reserve and other funds amounted to 17·1 per cent. of the working capital. The total amount obtained by borrowing from the provincial bank rose from Rs. 93·50 lakhs to Rs. 112·76 lakhs. The total loans advanced by central banks to their affiliated societies during the year increased from Rs. 198·38 lakhs to Rs. 234·28 lakhs, while the total repayment by affiliated societies rose from Rs. 166·20 lakhs to Rs. 185·89 lakhs, the percentage of repayment to the total loans outstanding at the beginning of the year was 55·5 per cent. as against 52·1 per cent. in the preceding year. The total profits earned by the central banks rose from Rs. 8·34 lakhs to Rs. 8·53 lakhs, while the cost of management increased from Rs. 5·74 lakhs to Rs. 6·52 lakhs. The cost of management represents 1·4 per cent. of the working capital.

The Bengal Provincial Co-operative bank, Limited.

234. Its membership increased from 163 to 168, the working capital from Rs. 171·90 lakhs to Rs. 184·03 lakhs, the share capital from Rs. 13·69 lakhs to Rs. 15·93 lakhs and the reserve fund from Rs. 1·71 lakhs to Rs. 2·05 lakhs, while the special reserve and other funds increased from Rs. 1·91 lakhs to Rs. 2·79 lakhs. Non-members deposits rose from Rs. 123·27 lakhs to Rs. 132·65 lakhs but deposits from central banks slightly fell from Rs. 22·56 lakhs to Rs. 21·94 lakhs and those from other registered societies remained nearly the same as in the preceding year and amounted to Rs. 8·65 lakhs. It maintained ample fluid resources and its relations with affiliated societies continued to be satisfactory.

Industrial unions.

235. The Bengal Provincial Co-operative Industrial Union had 12 industrial societies on its roll during the year. It has now a total paid-up share capital of Rs. 5,000. It received the second instalment of Government loan of Rs. 25,000 during the year as also a Government subsidy of Rs. 12,000. The office of the wholesale department of the society was removed to Clive Street in the heart of Burra Bazar of this city and the wholesale branch at Khangraputty was closed down. Since then the society has been in touch with the wholesale dealers of goods similar to those produced by its constituencies and it has been in a better position to observe and advise as to market fluctuations. The society principally handled cotton and silk goods and also leather. Other products of cottage industries, e.g., carpets, woollen blankets and

wrappers, mats, etc., were also sold. It obtained goods according to samples and specifications—only those goods for which there was a demand in the market and which could be produced by the industrialists being selected. During the year the society sold finished products valued at Rs. 71,062 as against Rs. 30,848 in the preceding year. The value of raw materials supplied by the society rose from Rs. 98,659 to Rs. 3,10,368. The total general charges during the year amounted to Rs. 11,969 and the society earned a profit of Rs. 8,265. The Bankura Industrial Union worked with 82 affiliated societies and a working capital of Rs. 67,007. The total value of its sale of finished products decreased from Rs. 31,231 to Rs. 24,649 and the amount of *bani* (wages) paid to the members of the affiliated societies from Rs. 6,075 to Rs. 5,827. The union obtained a profit of Rs. 1,174 during the year. The Nadia Industrial Union has made little progress. The Dacca Industrial Union worked at a loss during the year owing to the difficulty it experienced in disposing of its large stock of yarn and conch-shells. The Chittagong Industrial Union has deteriorated and is in need of reconstitution. The Chowmohani Industrial Union has been making slow but steady progress. The Raipura Union is in need of more local support.

The Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society.

236. Its membership increased from 12,025 to 15,619 and it continued to do most useful publicity and propaganda work on behalf of the movement. Under its auspices were held training classes for officers of societies and of the department. It also maintained a free reading room and library in the vicinity of College Square in Calcutta.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other Gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botonic Garden, Darjeeling, for the year 1929-30.]

Royal Botanic Garden.

237. The rains were somewhat prolonged, and as a result there was late sowing with late flowering of cold weather annuals. The addition of new and interesting species enhanced the attractiveness of the show of annuals. The area of the permanent flower garden was increased by the addition of beds of roses, other flowering perennials, etc. During the year 220 species of plants were added to the permanent collections of which no fewer than 58 were new.

As usual, specimens were received, identified and incorporated in the Herbarium. Several thousands of specimens were acquired for the Herbarium during the year and the annual field survey

work continued. Prominent amongst receipts were collections from Forest Officers in Burma and a set of representative plants of the Eastern Himalayas for determination and preparation for the Herbarium of the University of Vienna. Gifts of specimens from the Swedish State Museum, Stockholm, and from the National Museum, Washington, and a set of named grasses from Professor Hitchcock of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, were received. The collection of historical interest of South African plants by Dr. Roxburgh was loaned to the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew.

Calcutta gardens.

238. The staging out of potted annuals on the structure of the bandstand added to the attraction of the Eden Gardens. Considerable improvement has also been made in the condition of some of the roads which are now brought under repairs annually.

Lloyd Botanic Garden.

239. The season was favourable for gardening. Rains were well distributed, there was no snow and temperatures were normal. Three hundred and ninety-three young trees and shrubs were planted in the garden; 4,142 packets of seeds, 1,712 plants, etc., were distributed to botanical and other institutions. The garden has the reputation of being a centre for the distribution of Eastern Himalayan plants and seeds.

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1929-30.]

Plantations.

240. The area under cultivation at the end of the year was 2,877 acres. Extensions comprising 130 acres in the Mungpoo plantation, and 56 acres in the Munsong plantation, were carried out during the year under review.

The continued prevalence of the nursery epidemic at present overshadows all other plantation considerations at Munsong. Further experiments in the disinfection of nursery soils and sites have not pointed to any easy specific for the disease, but it appears that it was premature to say that a plant once attacked was doomed.

Subsequent experience seems to indicate that very early planting to permanent situations in the field before the condition becomes epidemic in the nursery may lead to the prevention and cure of the disease and give the solution to a problem that is of immense importance to cinchona in the whole district of Darjeeling.

The effect of various degrees of nursery shade is being tested and experiments are being made to ascertain whether the time of sowing affects the virulence of the attack.

The outstanding facts of the year are that the disease persists and that a good measure of success has been attained in spite of it. Its presence at Mungpoo has also been established, but there it is not epidemic and does not show itself till after the plants have passed the nursery stage.

Outturn.

241. The quantity of Bengal bark harvested in the year of report was 1,130,402 lbs. against 1,041,827 lbs. in the previous year. The results of coppicing have been fairly successful and the major part of the harvest in Mungpoo plantation was obtained by coppicing three eight-year old blocks.

Altogether 1,109,863 lbs. of dried bark was used in the Factory during the year. Of this, 1,060,656 lbs. represents Bengal bark and the rest Java and Burma bark belonging to the Government of India.

Bengal bark produced during the year 29,050 lbs. crude quinine sulphate, approximately 13,000 lbs. purified quinine sulphate converted to 4,919 lbs. tablets and 79,297 boxes of treatments, and 726 lbs. other quinine salts. Other products were 15,681 lbs. cinchona febrifuge powder and 4,347 lbs. cinchona febrifuge tablets.

From the Java and Burma bark 2,090 lbs. of quinine sulphate and 932 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge powder were extracted for the Government of India.

Finance.

242. The quantity of Factory products sold during the year was 27,404 lbs. against 31,010 lbs. in the previous year. The total expenditure was Rs. 4,16,096 and the net receipts, excluding Rs. 29,648 due to the Jails Department for distribution charges and Rs. 5,717 from land rent, grazing fees, etc., not credited to the department and including Rs. 20,437 being the payment for extraction work done for the Government of India, amounted to Rs. 6,08,302. The expenditure and receipts were thus lowered by Rs. 829 and Rs. 55,952 respectively than in the previous year. Reduced receipts are due partly to decrease in sales, which are however higher than in 1927-28, and partly to a fall in the manufacture for India which accounts for Rs. 23,054 of the reduction.

The profit balance on the year's working amounted to Rs. 4,53,972 exclusive of Rs. 20,437 received from the Government of India for work done during 1928-29. The profit includes a gain of Rs. 59,292 in the value of the cinchona plantations due to increase in quinine percentages.

Forests.

[The Annual Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Presidency of Bengal for the year ending 31st March 1930.]

Administration.

243. The forests of Bengal lie chiefly along the Himalayan Range in the north, in the Sundarbans in the south and in the Chittagong district and the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the south-east. During the year the area of reserved forest increased by 3 square miles from 6,462 to 6,465 square miles. The increase was in the Chittagong Division. The area of protected forest also increased by 45 square miles from 628 to 673 chiefly owing to the addition of newly formed accretions in the Sundarbans Forest Division. There was no change in the area of unclassed forest. The total area of forests under the control of the department thus increased from 10,535 to 10,583 or by 48 square miles.

Notifications under section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, in respect of about 100 square miles of khas mahal forests in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar Divisions were issued during the year and 82 miles of the boundaries of compact blocks in Chittagong and 101 miles in Cox's Bazar were demarcated.

Working plans.

244. The working plan of the Jalpaiguri Division was under printing during the year. The Darjeeling and Buxa working plans were completed and sent for printing after the close of the year. The new plans (under preparation) were followed in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri Divisions. The prescriptions of the old plans were followed in Buxa Division. A revised working plan of the Sundarbans Forest Division is almost complete.

Utilisation.

245. Departmental operations were carried out chiefly in Kurseong, Jalpaiguri and Bux Divisions. These Divisions continued to supply sleepers to the Sleeper Control Officer, Eastern Group, and the Bengal Duars Railway.

The saw mill at Siliguri which was started in 1926 worked at a profit of Rs. 15,458, but the gross revenue collected on sales of sawn timber from the mill was Rs. 1,10,759 against Rs. 1,25,943 last year. The decrease in revenue was mainly due to the market being very dull throughout the year, but there was a fair increase in the sale of *sal* (*Shorea robusta*) scantlings. This promises well for the future prospects of the mill. The improvements effected in the mill will, it is hoped, result in larger profits, by reducing the cost of production.

Exploitation.

246. Departmental khedda operations conducted in the Cox's Bazar Division resulted in the capture of 44 elephants, but there were a number of casualties mainly among small elephants and

29 elephants were brought to the place of auction in the Chittagong Division. At the close of the year, only 7 elephants had been sold; 22 remained on hand unsold. The expenditure incurred up to the end of the year, including the cost of establishment and the upkeep of departmental elephants was Rs. 23,582 and the revenue collected was Rs. 3,275 against Rs. 1,123 of the previous year.

Financial results.

247. As in the previous year there was a decrease in the outturn of different kinds of forest produce except bamboos. The revenue, expenditure and the surplus decreased during the year, compared with the previous year, as shown below:—

Year	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1928-29	31,18,357	16,82,008	14,36,349
1929-30	30,52,078	16,64,606	13,87,472

The decrease in revenue occurred mainly in the Jalpaiguri and Buxa Divisions on account of restricted sale of coupes due to a dull timber market and reduction of the output of sal under the new working plans.

Government have spent about 15 per cent. of the annual surplus on capital expenditure, on the average during the last three years and ordinary expenditure rose from Rs. 14 lakhs in 1924-25 to Rs. 17 lakhs in 1927-28, though it has now fallen to Rs. 16 lakhs owing to financial stringency.

Communications and buildings.

248. The total expenditure on the construction and repairs of roads and bridges amounted to Rs. 61,784 against Rs. 58,000 in the previous year. No new works of any magnitude were constructed during the year. Although the average cost of repairs and upkeep of roads per mile was small, the roads were kept in good condition. The total expenditure on the construction of new buildings and on repairs to existing ones, was Rs. 66,184 and Rs. 43,442 as compared with Rs. 61,765 and Rs. 48,347 respectively of the previous year.

General.

249. The total value of sales of forest produce was Rs. 21,40,228 against Rs. 23,86,189, a decrease of more than Rs. 2,45,000. The value of forest produce, granted free of charge, was Rs. 56,000 and exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 5,000. The free grantees are the Public Works Department, District Board, Government Cinchona Department, forest

villagers, *taungya* cultivators and timber cutters. Orders have been passed after the close of the year clearly laying down the purposes for which the Conservators and the Divisional Forest Officers will be entitled to grant forest produce free of royalty or at reduced rates.

The demand for lizard skins still continued. Permits to collect the skins of the large water lizard (*Varanus salvator*) were issued and they brought in a revenue of about Rs. 10,000 in the Sundarbans Forest Division.

In the forest area eight persons including a Deputy Ranger were killed by tigers and rogue elephants and three men were mauled by bears. Three men were killed by crocodiles. A sum of Rs. 690 was paid in rewards for killing six tigers and capturing two cubs.

Industries.

Administration.

250. Mr. A. T. Weston held charge of the department throughout the year under report. There was no administrative change of any importance during the year under review.

Research: (*a*) Chemical section.

251. The Industrial Chemist carried through an extensive programme of research into the suitability of various oil seeds, viz., Punnal oil, Rayana, Karanja and Kusum. These oil seeds are indigenous of the province and mostly grow wild and the oils extracted from them have been shown to possess valuable properties in the manufacture of soap. The training provided at the Industrial Research Laboratory and in suitable localities of the province continued to attract students. It is noteworthy that most of the young men trained have either established soap factories of their own or are associated with the industry in some shape or other.

(*b*) Engineering section.

252. The demonstrations of improved methods of manufacture suitable to the cottage industrial scale in the case of the conch-shell industry, the umbrella handle bending and assembling industry, the husking of paddy, etc., were continued with accumulated evidence of widespread appreciation. A further important cottage industry which received the attention of the Industrial Engineer is the bell-metal industry. As a result of experiments on the casting, finishing and polishing of bell-metal articles carried out at the Industrial Research Laboratory a comprehensive programme of demonstration in the province has been carried out. The work was concentrated at Dubrajpur in the first place and a co-operative society has been formed with the object of carrying on manufacture on the improved lines demonstrated.

The Industrial Engineer has also been able to devise a simple potters wheel of mechanically sound construction equipped with a free wheel drive and ball bearing arrangement. The use of this machine has been demonstrated in various localities where the pottery industry is carried on, and there is reason to believe that as purchasing facilities become available the use of this device will be largely taken up.

(e) Bengal Tanning Institute.

253. The Bengal Tanning Institute maintained its record of good work in all its branches—research, instruction, demonstration and propaganda during the year. It is now admitted that the tanning industry in the province has made striking progress in the course of the last few years and there is reason to believe that the institute has had not an inconsiderable share in achieving this result. Several investigations were carried out on the processes of manufacturing such varieties of leather as are of interest to the local tanning industry, viz., (1) crome-tanned shoe upper leather (box sides), (2) vegetable tanned sole suitcase and crust (half tanned) leather, (3) crome-tanned picking band leather and (4) leather from reptile skins with the object of bringing the local products up to the Western standard which the tanneries of this country have to emulate and eventually reach to stand in competition.

Investigations were also carried out with the object of improving the unhairing process by the use of sulphide solution. A further development of importance followed from experiments carried out with the object of producing half-tanned leather for export on similar lines to the valuable half-tanned export trade of Madras. These experiments have shown promising results and at least two important tanneries have further extended their export business as the result of the same. A further and important range of experiments with the object of demonstrating the possibility of producing chrome leather picking bands for use in the textile and jute mills was brought to a useful conclusion and the results incorporated in a bulletin issued by the department.

A feature of the year was the establishment of classes attached to the institute for imparting instruction in boot and shoe making for which no facilities were available hitherto. The demonstration and propaganda work in this section have had their desired results and as a result of these demonstrations several men have taken up the industry as a profession and one has started a small factory.

Technical education including weaving education.

254. Technical education in all its branches including weaving education continued to receive the special attention of the department.

The number of technical institutions reported to be in effective operation on the 31st March 1930 was 136. The number of pupils attending them increased from 5,525 to 6,284, and the total expenditure direct and indirect incurred on these institutions from Rs. 11,15,750 to Rs. 12,03,395. The Kanchrapara Technical School and the Calcutta Technical School maintained their records of usefulness. A Junior Technical School was started at Hooghly on a grant-in-aid basis and a District Weaving School at Dacca during the year under review. The technical schools at Burdwan and Khulna were reorganised on principles accepted by this department.

In the matter of weaving education the Central Institute at Serampore with the outlying district and peripatetic weaving schools continued to function as usual. In order to bring the institute into touch with the cotton and jute industries of the province, a representative Committee of Management has been constituted and it is hoped that under the guidance of the Committee it will henceforth be possible for the institute to make greater progress in the development of weaving education in the province.

In regard to mining education, the Indian Mining Federation and the Indian Mining Association, which hitherto contributed towards the cost of maintaining the mining classes in the coal field of Bengal on consideration that the industry is directly benefited by these classes, definitely decided to discontinue their respective grants and as a result of that decision it has been necessary to limit the expenditure to the amount hitherto spent by Government in running the class and as a step in that direction a new Mining Lecturer on a reduced scale of pay has been appointed.

State Technical Scholarships.

255. Two State Technical Scholarships for training in England one for Modern printing machinery and its industrial application and one for Paints and Varnish Manufacture—were awarded during the year.

Manufacture and Mines.

Jute.

256. The area under jute cultivation including Cooch Behar and Tripura States during the year under report showed an increase, viz., 2,946,705 acres against 2,702,300 in the previous year. The total outturn was 8,729,570 bales against 8,589,000 bales in the preceding year. Even so the acreage and outturn were slightly less than 1927-28, which again was considerably less than 1926-27. In spite of the increased acreage and production in 1929-30 the value of the crop was less than in the previous

year owing to lower prices. There were 89 jute mills at work employing on an average 333,015 operatives—a decrease of 1,826 as compared with the previous year. The number of looms and spindles at work in these mills were 52,369 and 1,107,663 respectively, as against 51,928 and 1,095,235, respectively, in 1928-29. In addition one jute mill of 650 looms and 12,486 spindles, employing on an average 3,923 operatives, worked during the year up to the 14th June. It was closed down on that date owing to the collapse of a part of the mill building. The authorised capital in rupees, sterling and dollars as reported by 85 mills was Rs. 21,49,82,000 £3,175,000 and $12,000,000; five mills being either proprietary or private concerns did not disclose their capital.

Cotton.

257. Twelve cotton mills were at work during the year employing on an average 16,163 persons daily as against 14,522 in 1928-29. The number of looms and spindles at work were 4,340 and 368,608 respectively, as compared with 4,081 and 359,786, respectively, in 1928-29.

Silk.

258. There were two silk mills under the operation of the Indian Factories Act, employing on an average 430 operatives daily. The total production of disease-free seed cocoons during the year was 43,000 kahans, 18,000 kahans being raised by Government nurseries and 25,000 kahans by private agencies under Government supervision.

Sugar.

259. The acreage under sugar crops increased from 246,800 in 1928-29 to 249,800 in 1929-30. One small sugar grinding mill, employing about 25 persons, was brought under the operation of the Indian Factories Act during the year.

Tea.

260. The area under tea in 1929 was 203,164 acres (including figures for the Tripura State), as against 201,380 acres in the preceding year. The quantity of tea manufactured was 111,355,903 lbs. as against 96,105,654 lbs. in 1928. The number of tea plantations totalled 388 employing on an average 194,511 permanent and 9,432 temporary hands daily. Two hundred and eighty-two tea factories were under the operation of the Indian Factories Act and the total average number of operatives employed was 17,906 exclusive of persons employed on the gardens outside the factory premises. All tea factories employing ten persons were declared as "factories" within the meaning of the Indian Factories Act.

Coal.

261. The number of collieries under the scope of the Indian Mines Act rose from 174 to 208 and the number of persons employed in them also rose from 43,855 to 44,303 during the year 1929. The total yearly output of coal increased from 5,639,993 tons to

5,965,104 tons. There was a sufficient supply of labour except during the ploughing and reaping seasons of the year. Wages remained at about the same level as in the previous year.

The number of coal mines using electric power rose from 48 to 51 during the year. The number of mechanical ventilators and safety lamps in use was 20 and 9,436 against 21 and 8,170, respectively, in the previous year.

The total number of women working underground was restricted to 29 per cent. of the total number of persons, both men and women, employed underground in the mine concerned after 1st July 1929, as a consequence of which the number of women employed underground fell from 8,428 to 6,827, a satisfactory fall of about 19 per cent.

The indications of an improvement in the market for Indian Coal, faintly apparent at the end of 1928, became more evident in the early months of 1929. The factors responsible for improvement were increased demands for export and for use on Indian railways, and an understanding between certain of the leading producers that coal should not be sold at uneconomic prices.

There was an increase in the export of coal which was mainly due to an expansion of the exports to Hongkong. The work of the Indian Coal Grading Board continued to be appreciative and to meet with general approval.

Paper.

262. There were three paper mills at work during the year employing on an average 4,316 persons daily. They produced 27,526 tons of paper, valued approximately at Rs. 1,28,82,600.

Wool.

263. As in the previous year only the Dacca Central Jail Woollen Mill (10 looms and 288 spindles) was at work during the year. It employed on an average 163 persons daily and produced 131,701 lbs. of blankets, valued approximately at Rs. 1,23,470.

Saltpetre.

264. There was only one licensed saltpetre refinery at work during the year. The quantity of refined saltpetre produced was 23 maunds against 810 maunds in the previous year. The large decrease in the production was due to the fact that the refinery ceased to supply Government Munition Factories and Government Medical Stores with saltpetre. Neither purified nor impure salt was produced in the process of refinement of saltpetre during the year under report.

Miscellaneous Manufactures and Minor Industries.

Burdwan Division.

265. There has been no appreciable change in the position of industries in this Division during the year. The industry of mat-making at Dogachia in the Kalna subdivision somewhat

declined and the Raniganj potteries suffered from a depression from which there is no immediate prospect of their emerging. Two stone factories were started in Birbhum district during the year. The rice mills in the Bankura district were in a flourishing condition, but the cottage industries suffered a set back during the year under report. The cart and wheel and the fishing net industries expanded in Hooghly and Balagar respectively in the Sadar subdivision of the Hooghly district. In the Uluberia subdivision of the Howrah district there was a considerable increase in the number of rice-mills in the jurisdiction of Shyampur police-station. Two new jute mills—one at Chengail and the other at Kalsapa—in the Uluberia police-station, were established, of which the latter alone started work. The jute and cotton mills at Chengail and at Bauria sustained some loss owing to labour strikes. The Ring Cotton Mill at Fuleswar remained closed throughout the year on account of reconstruction. The manufacture of tiles after the Raniganj pattern in the jurisidiction of Uluberia and Bauria thanas made much improvement and demand for them, increased. The weaving and shoe-making industries expanded and improved.

Presidency Division.

266. During the year the manufactures of this Division were mostly in the same position as in the preceding year. A new biscuit factory has been started at Dum-Dum and a new match factory is being constructed at Dakshineswar. The lac industry in the Murshidabad district and the cotton and blanket weaving industry in the Jangipur subdivision showed a tendency to decline. Manufacture of tiles of good finish after the Raniganj pattern has been started at Berhampore. Biris (Indian cirgarettes) and khadi were manufactured on an extensive scale at Berhampore and in the Kandi subdivision. A new factory named "Jessore Comb and Celluloid Works" was started in the town of Jessore. A factory for the manufacture of trunks and buckets was started there. Several new rice mills were started in the Sadar subdivision of the Jessore district and two new rice mills at Matigunj bazar in the Bongaon subdivision. The sugar industry at Kotechandpur which was in a moribund condition showed some sign of vitality during the year under report.

Dacca Division.

267. The existing petty local manufactures and elementary factory works were continued in the district of Mymensingh. At Rajbari in Goalundo subdivision of the Faridpur district the Lucifer Match Factory was closed and arrangements were being made for the establishment of two rice factories there. As a result of the propaganda made by the Industries Department, the fly-shuttle looms are gradually gaining popularity amongst the weavers and a large number of these looms were introduced at

Baisari and Banaripara, in the Perojpur subdivision of the Bakarganj district. Some of the Bhadralogs also have taken to weaving as a part-time occupation. One rice mill has recently been started at Kowkhali in that subdivision. The hosiery factory at Bhola has since been closed. In the Sundarbans colonisation area a rice mill called the Donovan Rice Mill has been opened since January 1930 at the instance of the Co-operative Sale and Supply Society, Sundarbans.

Chittagong Division.

268. There has been no marked change in the manufactures of this Division. In Tippera, the weaving industry thrived. The factory established at Comilla now styled the Steel Construction Company under the management of House of Labourers for the manufacture of pruning knives and implements worked well.

Rajshahi Division.

269. Gunny cloth weaving continued to be an important industry in the district of Dinajpur. The manufacture of gunny and textile jute rope, gur from canes and molasses in an improved way is gradually being taken up by the people. The manufacture of coarse coloured cloth known as "fota" declined owing to the greater use of saries by females. The hosiery factory at Dhunot in the Bogra district did not work well while the silk industry there prospered. The old rice mills of the district of Bogra of which there is a considerable number did not thrive on account of the fall in price of rice. It is apprehended that some of these mills would collapse within a year, if things continued as at present. In the Pabna district improved looms are being slowly introduced as a result of the activities of the Industries Department through the agencies of the district and peripatetic weaving schools. In the beginning there was much opposition to the introduction of improved looms but it is gradually passing away. In the Sajatpur area improved looms of the Serampur type are being manufactured chiefly by local carpenters. There has been no appreciable change in the silk and matka weaving industries in the district of Malda. The competition of Chinese silk had adversely affected the demand for silk thread, but on the other hand there has been an increased demand for the finished articles. The brass and bell-metal industries of this district have shown improvement.

Working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911).

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Bengal for the year 1929.]

270. Seventy-one factories were added to, and 35 factories struck off, the register of factories in Bengal during the year. The net result was that there were 1,482 registered factories in

1929 as compared with 1,446 in 1928. The average daily number of persons employed in these factories was 589,860 compared with 571,079 in the preceding year. Jute mills, general engineering works, rice mills, tea factories, cotton mills, shipbuilding and engineering works, match factories, iron and steel smelting works and jute presses accounted for this increase. The average daily number of women employed increased and was 77,966 against 75,498 in the preceding year, while the gradual decline in recent years of the number of children employed continued and was 23,036 compared with 24,422 in 1928. This decline is due to the general policy among many factory managers of trying to eliminate child labour, whenever an opportunity occurs, owing to restrictions imposed by the Act on the employment of this class of labour. One prosecution against the manager of a jute mill for the irregular employment of such labour resulted in the dismissal of every child in the mill and their places being filled by adult labour.

One hundred and fifty-eight factories were inspected more than three times, 106 three times, 259 twice and 855 once. Only 15 factories remained uninspected during the year and all of them lie in the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Factories, Jalpaiguri. These factories also would have been inspected but for the frequent occasions on which this Inspector's tours had either to be delayed or cut short owing to ill health. Two thousand six hundred and sixty-eight visits in all to registered factories and 114 to unregistered concerns were made by the whole-time Inspectors of the Factory Department. The District Magistrates of Murshidabad, Malda, Bogra, Howrah, Rangpur, Dacca, Bakarganj and Jessore also visited some factories within their respective jurisdictions.

Progress was noted in the improvement of sanitation, but the advance seemed to be made chiefly by the larger concerns. In the case of smaller factories lack of capital and structural unsuitability of old buildings rendered it difficult to enforce radical improvements without driving the concern into liquidation. Even in the case of the larger concerns, improvement was seriously hampered by the fact that the Land Acquisition Act could not be used for the purpose of improving the surroundings of a factory or acquiring insanitary *bustees* with a view to replacing them by sanitary dwellings for the labour. The anomalous situation thus created was brought to the notice of the Royal Commission on Labour in India.

The general health of factory operatives appeared to be good, but, nothing definite on this subject can be stated unless all factories are compelled to maintain reliable health statistics. A serious outbreak of cholera occurred in a jute mill, in which 47,

out of the 149 persons attacked, succumbed to the disease. Elaborate measures were taken to prevent the spread of the disease, which was brought under control in about a week from the first outbreak.

Wages were generally stationary in the various industries during the year. The earnings of jute workers were higher than the previous year, due to the longer hours of work prevailing during the year as well as to concessions granted after the strike of July and August 1929.

The introduction or expansion of welfare work by some of the larger concerns was an interesting feature during the year as was also the institution by one group of jute mills of a system of half-pay pensions for life for workers who become unfit after 20 years of good service.

An attempt to standardise safety devices for machinery throughout the jute mills was started during the year.

The total number of accidents reported during the year from registered factories was 4,540, of which 79 were fatal, 1,391 serious and 3,070 minor, or an increase of 187 serious and 696 minor accidents over the figures of the preceding year, the number of fatal accidents being exactly the same in these two years. The percentage of accidents on the total number of persons employed was ·76, an increase of ·13 over the previous year.

One hundred and seventy-one prosecutions were instituted during the year, of which conviction was secured in 130 cases, 6 cases ended in the acquittal of the accused persons, 8 cases were withdrawn and 27 cases remained pending at the close of the year.

Labour Disputes.

271. The number of trade disputes in the year, involving stoppages of work, was 44 as compared with 49 in the previous year. The number of work-people involved in all disputes in the year was about 348,800 as against 123,674 in the year 1928-29; and the aggregate economic loss in working days was about 3,980,342 as compared with 3,910,631 in the previous year. Jute mills and presses account for about 95 per cent. of the number of men involved and about 92 per cent. of the total loss. This is accounted for by the incidence in the year of a general dispute affecting almost the whole of the jute mill industry in Bengal. Twenty-three of the disputes of the year were occasioned by demands for higher wages or by other questions relating to wages

and their payment, thirteen arose on questions concerning discharge or dismissal and other similar disciplinary action with regard to staff, two on details of leave and hours of work and the remaining six on other miscellaneous issues. Of the 44 disputes in the year, two had begun within the previous year and all but two ended during the year, seventeen were settled in favour of the workers either wholly or in part and twenty-five against them, while in the remaining four cases, work was resumed either as the result of a compromise or pending negotiations.

Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

272. During the year, eleven trade unions were registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, and one went into voluntary dissolution, thus making a total of nineteen registered trade unions as against nine in the previous year. The membership of seventeen of these unions at the close of the year was 55,268 comprising 54,516 men, and 752 women and the balance at the credit of their general funds was Rs. 22,550. Two of the registered unions failed to submit the annual return prescribed under the Act. Notice under section 10 was issued against these unions.

Bengal Steam Boiler Commission.

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Boilers Act 1923 (V of 1923) in Bengal.]

273. During the year under review the Commission held two special and eleven ordinary meetings for the transaction of business during the year.

The total number of boilers on the register was 4,841, out of which 253 were struck off during the year. The staff inspected 3,700 boilers in respect of which certificates were granted during the year. One hundred and thirty-four boilers were found defective in respect of which repairs were recommended to make them serviceable. One boiler was condemned as unfit for further use.

During the year applications for inspection in respect of 600 boilers in Bengal were not received and 235 were out of use.

The total receipts during the year under report amounted to Rs. 3,09,992, out of which Rs. 1,69,333 related to Bengal on account of fees for inspection of boilers. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 2,76,381, of which Rs. 1,47,456 related to Bengal. The figures representing the total receipts and expenditure during the previous year were Rs. 3,20,588 and

Rs. 3,10,173, respectively, out of which Rs. 1,65,153 on account of fee-receipts and Rs. 1,71,773 on account of expenditure related to Bengal.

Two prosecutions were instituted during the year which ended in convictions.

During the year under report one accident of a serious nature was reported resulting in the death of one person and injury to another.

Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission.

274. The Commission held 12 meetings during the year. They continued to devote their attention to adopting the most modern methods governing the scientific use of fuel and utilising the latest achievements in industrial and domestic smoke abatement. They kept in touch with the Smoke Departments and Fuel and Research Institutions in Europe and America and Sub-Committees were appointed to deal with the larger questions and to plan future programmes. The staff made 8,023 inspections and tests for educational purposes, disposed of 70 complaints, approved 71 plans of new installations, brought 3,900 minor offences to the notice of the owners and served 7 statutory warnings, but no prosecutions were instituted. General smoke conditions improved by a reduction of the emission of smoke in average figures from ·48 to ·3 minutes per hour which is by far the lowest recorded.

The public developments which contributed to the reduction of atmospheric pollution included the installation of 926 motors equivalent to 14,157 horse power within the system of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, and the fittings by the Oriental Gas Company of 1,564 gas appliances for domestic and industrial use.

Workman's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923).

[Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal, during the year 1929.]

275. During the year under report there was a general increase in compensation deposited, claims instituted and agreements registered under the Workmen's Compensation Act. This was most noticeable in deposits. In all cases of fatal accidents, and of accidents to women or minors resulting in permanent dis-

ablement the employer, even though he does not contest his liability, is required to deposit the compensation with the Commissioner, and may not pay direct. There was a large increase in such deposits in 1929, the number being double and the total amount deposited 70 per cent. greater than in the preceding year. Before 1929, deposit was compulsory in fatal cases only, but it was not the case, as might be thought, that the increase in 1929 was due to deposits for permanent disablement to women and minors. In fact, only five such deposits were received, though the amendments came into force in April, and the fact that several cases of direct payment were brought to the notice of the Commissioner shows that they did not become generally known at first. The amending Act had the effect of tightening up several sections in the interest of the workmen.

The question of the amount to be allowed for free rations and free accommodation on boardship in calculating the wages of lascars having been successfully settled in the preceding year, the Commissioner convened a conference of representatives of employers and workmen during the year under report in connection with the more difficult question of the amount to be allowed particularly in the case of railway servants for the free use of uniform. It was decided that the allowance should be 6 pies in the rupee on the workmen's gross earnings, subject to the right of either party to give evidence in any case of the actual facts.

Statistical returns under section 16 of the Act were received from 1,497 employers out of a total number of 1,685 registered concerns. The returns showed a daily average of 664,909 workmen employed. The total number of accidents for which compensation was paid by these employers was reported to be 3,064 as against 2,222 in the previous year. Of these, 149 resulted in death, 318 in permanent disablement, and 2,597 in temporary disablement. The amount of compensation paid for them was Rs. 1,06,285, Rs. 73,811 and Rs. 40,825 as against Rs. 51,404, Rs. 74,140 and Rs. 21,319, respectively, in the previous year. It must be borne in mind, however, that no returns are to be submitted to the Commissioner for large classes of workmen who are included in the Act, e.g., stevedores' coolies, builders and railway servants not employed in workshops, or for lascars, who are not included in the Act at all, but are compensated as if they were. Deposits, agreements and contested cases in respect of lascars are included in the figures given below.

In 1929, 112 claims were instituted under section 10, the section under which application for compensation is made when the employer has refused or omitted to pay. By no means all of

these resulted in contests, for 8 were withdrawn and no less than 40 admitted by the employer. Twenty-three were allowed in full or in part and 21 dismissed after contest. When the applicant's statement leaves any doubt whether the employer has really refused to pay, the practice of the Commissioner is to write an informal letter to the employer, informing him that a claim has been made. This frequently results in an admission of liability, and sometimes in a definite refusal: in the latter case if the applicant persists, he is recommended to institute a formal claim. The large number of cases in which the employer nevertheless admitted liability on receipt of summons shows the difficulty of dealing with these illiterate claimants. Many of them are accounted for by the fact that the workman had misunderstood an offer of half-monthly payments, and thought that the small sum offered was in full discharge of the employer's liability; others by the fact that the workman had been told to wait while the matter was referred to an insurance company, and had taken this for a refusal. That only 44 of the claims instituted were fought out must be remembered in estimating the volume of legislation occasioned by the Act.

The total sum received in deposits during the year was Rs. 2,50,655-8. The greater part of this was for fatal accidents (212 cases), for which deposit is compulsory, but it includes 5 deposits for permanent disablement of women or minors, and 68 voluntary deposits for permanent disablement of adult men, mostly by railway companies, which always pay lump sum compensation through the Commissioner.

When deposits are received for injured workmen or for dependants residing in other provinces, the case is transferred to the local Commissioner for their convenience. During the year 30 distribution cases and 3 deposits for injured workmen were so transferred, and fourteen distribution cases were received by transfer to be dealt with here.

When the amount of compensation is agreed between the parties, a memorandum of agreement must be registered for all lump sum payments, and if the worker is a woman or a minor, for all payments. During the year 269 such agreements were filed of which 47 were for temporary disablement, and the remainder for lump sums. In nine cases the Commissioner of his own motion ordered the employer to pay a larger amount (his assessment being accepted without contest in every case) and in a large number he was consulted before the agreement was filed.

It is not possible to state the total number of accidents for which compensation was payable, or even the number for which employers admitted liability, for this can only be ascertained from

returns submitted by employers, and as already explained returns are not received from all classes of employers. Accidents reported to the Factory Departments and Mines and to the police include many not covered by the Act, and do not include many which are so covered, so that there is no way of arriving at even an approximate estimate of the number of accidents for which compensation ought to have been paid during the year. Nevertheless it is safe to say that while knowledge of the provisions of the Act is steadily spreading (during the year 20 claims were filed by persons employed in unorganised industries such as rice and oil mills, surki mills, etc.), the very small number of cases actually contested shows that the Act is giving rise to very little legislation. There is undoubtedly however a tendency among owners of such small concerns (who are nearly all uninsured) to compromise for a small sum and a promise of re-employment, and they very rarely register agreement, which is a better test of the extent of the application of the Act than the number of claims. The attitude of employers generally is conciliatory and humane, and of workmen it may be said that the record of Bengal for deliberate malingering compares very favourably with that of Great Britain. The smooth working of the Act is very largely due to the arbitrary character of its provisions. Whether it should be modified in this respect, and if so to what extent, is at present under the consideration of the Government of India.

During the year under review the Commissioner made 245 awards. These include awards in applications filed under section 10, and awards in proceedings for distribution of money deposited under section 8 (*1*) among dependants. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 15,171-2-9 in the Commissioner's hands. During the year Rs. 2,50,655-8 was deposited as against Rs. 1,49,873-8-4 in the previous year. Of this total amount, Rs. 2,48,171-4-9 was awarded during the year, Rs. 2,10,258-2-9 being paid straight to claimants and Rs. 37,913-2 invested in Post Office Cash Certificates and Savings Bank. There were 98 accounts current at the Savings Bank in the name of women and minors when the year opened, and 125 when it closed. From almost all these accounts small monthly remittances are made, which entails an increasing amount of work in the office.

During the year the Commissioner visited Asansol 10 times, Chittagong 4 tmes, Narayanganj twice and Darjeeling and Khulna once each to try cases locally.

The anuual cost of the office to Government was Rs. 33,426. The only revenue is from court-fees and sale-proceeds of forms, and amounted to Rs. 856.

Indian Companies Act, 1913, and Allied Acts.

[Annual Report of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Bengal, on the working of the Indian Companies Act and allied Acts during 1929-30.]

276. At the close of the year under review there were in operation 3,899 companies limited by shares, with a total nominal capital of Rs. 3,78,12,52,832 and a paid up capital of Rs. 1,23,46,48,891 as compared with 3,584 companies with Rs. 3,56,75,93,170 nominal, and Rs. 1,22,60,58,803, paid up capitals on 31st March 1929.

Four hundred and six new companies and societies, or 19 more than the number of the preceding year, were registered. Of the new companies, 364 were limited by shares and 6 limited by guarantee, 36, representing various social, philanthropic and charitable objects were incorporated under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Six hundred and twenty companies increased, while 42 companies reduced their capitals as against 560 and 66, respectively, during 1928-29. Fifty companies ceased to work, went into liquidation, were finally dissolved, or otherwise became defunct, as compared with 41 in the previous year. Fifty-five companies went into liquidation during the year, but were not finally wound up.

Three hundred and forty-five prosecutions were instituted during the year and 26 were pending from the preceding year. Of these, 297 ended in conviction, 12 were filed by the Court, 3 withdrawn and 59 were pending at the close of the year. In one of these cases, the company, after being convicted and fined for a second time for failure to furnish a return within the period prescribed, lodged an appeal in the High Court on the ground that a party cannot be convicted twice for the same offence but the appeal was dismissed and the conviction upheld.

The net receipts of the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, from all sources amounted to Rs. 1,00,448-3 as compared with Rs. 91,642-4 in the previous year.

Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912.

277. Six new Provident Insurance Societies were registered under the Act during the year, bringing the total number of existing societies to 22.

During the year one permanent unrestricted auditor's certificate was granted to a holder of the Government Diploma in Accountancy, under the provisions of section 144 of the Indian Companies Act. Four temporary restricted auditors' certificates which expired during the year were renewed. Two applications

for certificates to act as auditors of companies were refused, as the applicants did not possess the qualifications prescribed by the Bengal Certified Auditors' Rules, 1920. Two of the Government certified auditors died during the year under review. Forty-five certified auditors were on the register at the close of the year; of these 30 held permanent unrestricted, 2 permanent restricted and 13 temporary restricted, auditors' certificates.

TRADE.

Foreign Sea-borne Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1929-30.]

Trade position.

278. The trade of Bengal, after a year of great prosperity, sustained a considerable set back, due mainly to general depression in world trade, and the resultant fall in commodity prices.

During the year under report the aggregate value of the sea-borne trade of Bengal (excluding treasure) with foreign countries and Indian ports amounted to Rs. 2,58 crores, which fell short of the last year's total by about Rs. 22 crores. The total tonnage handled by the Calcutta Port Commissioners, however, improved a little; this was due to the increase under the head "Dock Export (Coal)" from 26 lakhs to 30 lakhs.

In the foreign trade, the total declined from 2,37 crores to Rs. 2,21 crores. This was due to less receipts under both imports and exports; the former declining from Rs. 91 crores to Rs. 86 crores, and the latter from Rs. 1,45 crores to Rs. 1,34 crores. On the import side, the most noteworthy decline was under grain, pulse and flour, metals and ores, cotton piece-goods, sugar, motor cars, provisions, oilman's stores and salt; and, that on the export side, under raw jute and jute manufactures, lac, hides and skins.

During the year under report, there was no appreciable change in the share of trade of any country with Calcutta. The United Kingdom, while sustained a loss of 2 per cent. of her share of the import trade, improved her share of the export trade by exactly the same percentage, and thus appropriated 50 per cent. of the total trade under the former head, and 25 per cent. of the total trade under the latter head. Japan was the only country which was able to improve her share of the import trade; this she did by 3 per cent., and thus secured 10 per cent. of the total trade under that head.

In the coasting trade, the total, excluding treasure, also declined from Rs. 43 crores to Rs. 38 crores; this was due to the fall in the value of import trade by about 4 crores of rupees, and also in that of export trade by about 2 crores of rupees.

Imports of Merchandise.

279. The following table shows the comparative importance of the principal articles in the import trade of Calcutta. Articles which form less than ·50 per cent. of the total imports have been omitted from the list:—

	1928-29.	1929-30.	Percentage of proportion to total imports of merchandise.
	Rs.	Rs.	
Cotton goods	24,10,20,072	23,13,89,257	28·46
Metals and ores	10,60,41,651	9,02,83,899	11·14
Machinery and milwork	6,93,03,156	6,69,29,122	8·23
Sugar	6,19,95,539	5,79,23,741	7·12
Oils	4,66,48,946	4,18,37,236	5·15
Grains, Pulse and flour	5,17,30,031	2,63,37,565	3·24
Instruments, apparatus and appliances ..	2,10,31,381	2,27,69,524	2·80
Hardware, excluding cutlery and electroplatedware	1,76,87,254	1,72,10,721	2·12
Spices	1,49,61,582	1,70,76,280	2·10
Motor cars, motor cycles and parts thereof ..	1,92,15,491	1,62,93,880	2·00
Provisions and oilman's stores	1,53,81,140	1,30,45,060	1·60
Paper and pasteboard	1,05,40,366	1,21,19,205	1·49
Tobacco	1,15,25,417	1,20,96,131	1·49
Chemicals and chemical preparations ..	1,00,79,098	1,15,32,616	1·42
Liquors including methylated and perfumed spirits	1,03,98,735	1,11,09,576	1·37
Postal articles not specified	1,12,58,033	1,04,50,667	1·27
Carriages and wagons and parts for railways ..	72,52,303	95,42,623	1·17
Salt	1,08,24,820	95,15,672	1·17
Woolen goods	93,22,879	84,01,918	1·03
Drugs and medicines (excluding chemicals and narcotics).	71,21,375	77,69,295	·96
Glass and glassware	74,31,996	76,99,686	·95
Railway plant and rolling stock	..	..	..
Rubber	70,09,865	65,81,601	·81
Artificial silk	56,43,655	57,99,296	·71
Paints and painter's materials	49,61,535	54,58,701	·67
Tea-chests, entire or in sections	48,31,181	55,43,503	·68
Lac	16,02,168	50,64,303	·62
Cycles (other than motor cycles)	51,21,402	44,82,505	·55
Paper making materials	39,54,411	42,86,115	·53
Other articles	7,26,97,722	7,45,05,557	19·15
Total ..	86,65,93,204	81,30,75,265	100·00

The important items are separately dealt with in detail in the following paragraphs.

Liquors.

280. The total imports of liquors of all descriptions advanced from 1,936,126 gallons, valued at Rs. 1,03·99 lakhs, to 2,202,801 gallons valued at Rs. 1,11·10 lakhs. This was due to the increased consumption of ale, beer and porter, the value of which rose from Rs. 23·73 lakhs to Rs. 26·33 lakhs, and also that of rum, from Rs. ·85 lakhs to Rs.2·51 lakhs. The consumption of all the principal spirits recorded no appreciable change.

In consequence of a drop in the prices, imports of British ales and beers improved from 660,654 gallons to 733,247 gallons. Imports of German and Dutch beers also increased, but that of Japanese beer declined.

Sugar.

281. Under the stimulus of the low prices, which were lower than the lowest level reached last year by about a rupee per cwt., Bengal increased her supply of sugar by about 20,000 tons over last year's figures, i.e., from 348,585 tons valued at Rs. 6,00 lakhs, to 367,674 tons valued at Rs. 5,59 lakhs.

During the year Bengal also raised her import of beet sugar, which declined to 571 tons last year, to 6,339 tons; the increase was due mainly to pressure from continental holders of large stocks.

A noticeable feature of the trade was the importation of a few consignments of "cup sugar" and "molasses sugar" to compete against "Indian gur". It is presumed that the recent increase in the duty of sugar will render such competition impossible.

Imports of molasses were maintained practically at the same level as last year, the total receipts coming up to about 59,474 tons against 59,922 tons.

Salt.

282. The progress made in the imports of salt into Bengal during the last three years was fully maintained, by the importation of 553,030 tons valued at Rs. 1,24·76 lakhs against 493,940 tons valued at Rs. 1,24·07 lakhs in the previous year, and 467,311 tons valued at Rs. 1,45·89 lakhs in 1927-28. This marked increase in the quantity had the effect of sending down the prices even lower than that of last year, and this afforded a welcome relief to the consumers in general. Although imports from most of the foreign countries increased considerably, the consumption of Aden and Egyptian salts rose abnormally high. There were also increased imports from all the Indian ports, and Madras after a lapse of three years, was enabled to send 3,186 tons to the value of Rs. 1·69 lakhs. An interesting feature of the trade was the very rapid development made by Karachi in the sea salt trade. A consignment of 6,500 tons of salt was received for the first time from Assab, a port at the northern entrance of the Red Sea.

During the year under report there was a considerable drop in the proportion of salt passing through the Government Bonded Warehouse at Salkea, but the quantity in bond at the close of the year was 1,04,769 tons, which was substantially in excess of the last year's figures.

283. In spite of a decline in imports of tobacco, from 5,231,312 lbs. to 4,434,295 lbs., the value increased from Rs. 1,15·25 lakhs to Rs. 1,20·96 lakhs. This drop in the quantity was mainly due to a heavy fall in the imports of unmanufactured tobacco from 3,145,156 lbs. to 1,924,245 lbs., while the rise in the value was the outcome of increased imports of manufactured tobacco, mainly cigarettes, to the value of Rs. 95·38 lakhs against Rs. 79·61 lakhs in the previous year. It is reported that under the present rates of duty, trade in cigarettes was considered to be more profitable. The quantity of unmanufactured tobacco in bond remained steady at 170,000 lbs. Tobacco.

The United Kingdom, supplied, as usual, over 99 per cent. of the cigarettes imported.

284. The total quantity of mineral oil imported from all sources increased from 122,323,948 gallons valued at Rs. 7,39·75 lakhs to 142,426,361 gallons valued at Rs. 8,65·06 lakhs, due largely to increased imports from the United States of America and Burma. Mineral oil.

In the kerosene oil trade, imports from foreign countries declined from 35,823,476 gallons valued at Rs. 2,27·14 lakhs to 29,761,745 gallons valued at Rs. 1,84·65 lakhs. This falling off was due mainly to a decline in imports from Borneo, from 10,589,621 gallons to 3,420,703 gallons. By effecting a combination amongst all her oil syndicates, the United States of America was successful in regaining her leading position amongst Bengal's foreign suppliers, by contributing 14,609,334 gallons, against her modest contribution of 5,364,517 gallons only in the previous year. Imports from Burma made considerable strides; her total supplies amounted to 61,166,322 gallons against 41,805,709 gallons in the previous year.

In the lubricating and batching oil trade, Borneo regained her leading position, which she lost to the United States last year, by a supply of 10,499,666 gallons against the latter's 8,913,496 gallons. The United Kingdom also improved her share of the trade by supplying 445,805, gallons valued at Rs. 6·74 lakhs, against 307,840 gallons valued at Rs. 4·66 lakhs. The share of Burma remained steady with her contribution of 17 and odd lakhs of gallons.

Owing to the continued development of motor transport in Bengal, imports of petrol, benzine, etc., considerably improved. Burma maintained her premier position in this trade, and increased her supplies from 10,643,231 gallons valued at Rs. 97·04 lakhs to 15,089,332 gallons valued at Rs. 1,38·30 lakhs. Imports of fuel oil also increased, the total quantity amounted to 9,698,457 gallons as against 8,292,874 gallons in the previous year, Borneo being the principal supplier. Imports of German White oil declined from 1,892,533 gallons to 1,510,970 gallons.

Motor vehicles.

285. The motor trade of Bengal, which made considerable progress during the last few years, received a general set back during the year under review. Imports of motor cars, cycles, omnibuses, etc., and parts thereof, declined in value from Rs. 1,92·16 lakhs to Rs. 1,62·94 lakhs; and those of tyres and tubes from Rs. 51·12 lakhs to Rs. 41·71 lakhs. This decline did not connote any slackening of Bengal's demand for motor vehicles, but was due to the growing tendency on her part to get her supplies direct from Bombay in preference to Calcutta. The example of Bengal was followed by upcountry markets, which bought a good portion of their requirements of tyres and tubes direct from Bombay and thereby diverted a considerable portion of the trade to other ports. The Assembly Plant in Bombay, which was established last year by a large American Corporation, as reported last year, also did considerable injury to the trade through Calcutta, as it supplied no less than 364 cars valued at Rs. 8,08,524, and 160 commercial chassis valued at Rs. 2,79,254 by sea to Calcutta and its immediate neighbourhood.

Imports of motor cars, including taxi cabs, decreased, in number from 5,553 to 3,229, and in value from Rs. 1,15·77 lakhs to Rs. 77·67 lakhs. A noteworthy feature of this trade was that for the first time Germany sent 33 cars to the value of Rs. 1,23,104.

Imports of motor cycles, including scooters, which fell off considerably last year due to the growing popularity of light British cars, again rose from 583 to 643, and in value from Rs. 3·24 lakhs to Rs. 3·59 lakhs. The United Kingdom continued to retain her monopoly in this trade.

Imports of commercial vehicles from all sources also increased from 2,348 to 2,468, and in value from Rs. 42·43 lakhs to Rs. 53·83 lakhs; the United Kingdom's share in this trade remained practically unchanged.

There was, however, considerable decline in the imports of tyres and tubes for the same reason that accounted for the decline

in the imports of cars, etc., the total number of each kind imported being 95,865 and 85,332, respectively, against 114,807 and 113,144 in the previous year.

Drugs, medicines and chemicals.

286. The trade in drugs, medicines and chemicals advanced from Rs. 1,72 lakhs to Rs. 1,93 lakhs. This improvement was the outcome of increased imports of most of the important items of this trade except camphor and disinfectants. The United Kingdom continued to be the chief supplier, but Japan's share fell considerably due to the shrinkage of her supply of camphor from Rs. 1¾ lakhs to Rs. 90,000 only, due to the popularity of German synthetic camphor.

There was considerable recovery in the imports of calcium of carbide and sulphur, the former coming mostly from Norway, and the latter from the United States of America and Italy.

Imports of quinine salts improved from Rs. 14·13 lakhs to Rs. 16·91 lakhs, but there was a total falling off in the imports of Cinchona bark on Government account.

Glassware and earthenware.

287. Although some improvement was noticed in the import trade of this ware, the value of which advanced from Rs. 90·88 lakhs to Rs. 92·15 lakhs, the trade was depressed under practically all the heads except under beads and pearls, and phials and bottles.

Bangles.

288. The value of imports of glass bangles declined from Rs. 22·34 lakhs to Rs. 20·86 lakhs; this was mainly due to the increased popularity of the cheap indigenous article and the consequent drop in the imports from Japan. Aided by an increase in prices imports from Czecho-Slovakia increased from Rs. 7·28 lakhs to Rs. 10·08 lakhs.

Beads and false pearls.

289. Imports of beads and false pearls improved from 13,876 cwts. to 15,827 cwts., and in value by about Rs. 1·43 lakhs. This improvement was due to increased imports of beads from Italy and Czecho-Slovakia, which were much in demand for their veriegated colour and attractive design.

Bottles and phials.

290. A substantial improvement was recorded under this head, the quantity rising from 217,128 gross to 312,056 gross, and the value from Rs. 10·81 lakhs to Rs. 14·01 lakhs. This increased demand was the outcome of increased manufacture of hair oils, perfumery, ærated waters and patent medicines in India. All the principal suppliers contributed to the advance, the most prominent amongst them being Japan.

Glass lamp parts.

291. The total value of imports under this head advanced slightly from Rs. 5·54 lakhs to Rs. 5·84 lakhs. Germany and Belgium improved their share of the trade considerably at the expense of Japan.

Imports of sheets and plate glass and other forms of glassware, earthenware and porcelainware declined considerably.

Machinery and millwork.

292. The gross value of imports of machinery and millwork declined slightly from Rs. 6,93 lakhs to Rs. 6,69 lakhs. This was due to the heavy decline in the value of imports of paper-making machinery, from Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 6 lakhs, sugar machinery from Rs. 17 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs, tea machinery from Rs. 27 lakhs to Rs. 16 lakhs, cotton machinery from Rs. 24 lakhs to Rs. 19 lakhs and foundry and workshop machinery from Rs. 64 lakhs to Rs. 41 lakhs. The deficits was, however, very nearly made up by increased imports under prime-movers, from Rs. 89 lakhs to Rs. 1,31 lakhs, boilers from Rs. 68 lakhs to Rs. 71 lakhs, jute machinery from Rs. 1,30 lakhs to Rs. 1,43 lakhs, and match-making machinery from Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 11 lakhs. Imports of electrical machinery remained unchanged at Rs. 55 lakhs.

The United Kingdom was as usual the principal supplier, but her actual contribution declined a little from Rs. 5,72 lakhs to Rs. 5,58 lakhs. Imports from Sweden, which were confined mostly to match-making machinery, rose from Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 11 lakhs, and those from Germany remained unchanged at about Rs. 25 lakhs. Imports from the United States of America declined from Rs. 75 lakhs to Rs. 60 lakhs.

Metals and metal manufactures.

293. Imports of iron and steel, which made considerable progress last year received a general set back during the year under report, the quantity declining from 492,938 tons to 379,823 tons, and the value from Rs. 8,39·70 lakhs to Rs. 6,61·58 lakhs. This falling off was due, in the main, to the curtailment of constructional activities in India as the Railways, the Port Trust and the Public Works restricted themselves to such work as was already in hand; they were diffident about taking up new work owing to the trade depression. Another outstanding fact, which added to the discomfiture in this trade, was the increased production of these goods by the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., which received greater patronage as the result of introducing the system of quantity discounts for regular customers. Imports of corrugated iron sheets were also considerably depressed, due to the glut of last year's imports, and to slackness in the jute districts, which usually absorb a large quantity of these sheets.

The above was the position with regard to the articles covered by the protective tariff. The non-protected materials on the other hand, showed considerable improvement. The total advancing from 91,067 to 92,853 tons. The increase in these materials was attributed to the universal use of reinforced concrete for buildings of all kinds. The United Kingdom was again the principal supplier of these goods, her total contribution advancing from 32,212 tons to 37,842 tons.

Imports of metals and ores other than iron and steel improved, in quantity, from 411,342 cwts. to 420,049 cwts., and in value, from Rs. 2,20·72 lakhs to Rs. 2,41·26 lakhs. This improvement was mainly the result of increased imports of aluminium, which amounted to 72,736 cwts. against 44,603 cwts. in the previous year. This metal is now being mostly used for the manufacture of domestic utensils, and this use accounted for the decline in the imports of brass, etc., from 124,656 cwts. to 104,172 cwts., and copper from 67,975 cwts. to 32,734 cwts. Imports of zinc. however, increased from 104,687 cwts. to 129,149 cwts., due to the development of the galvanizing industry in India during the last few years.

Paper and paste-boards.

294. There was again a general improvement in this trade, the quantity advancing from 691,844 cwts. to 822,030 cwts., and the value from Rs. 1,05·41 lakhs to Rs. 1,21·19 lakhs. This increase was the result of increased imports from all countries except Germany and Austria. The total quantity imported from the United Kingdom advanced from 302,193 cwts. to 337,672 cwts., but the value, due to less imports of printing paper and increased imports of old newspapers, fell from Rs. 44·68 lakhs to Rs. 42·07 lakhs.

Imports of mechanical woodpulp increased from 425,476 cwts. to 467,567 cwts.

Cotton goods.

295. The cotton goods trade of Bengal met with a further set back, the total value of imports shrinking by about a crore of rupees, from Rs. 24,10·20 lakhs to Rs. 23,13·8 lakhs. This was mainly due to a decline in the value of piece-goods from Rs. 21,09 lakhs to Rs. 20,19·73 lakhs, although some recovery was made in the value of other cotton fabrics. To add to this, the embargo imposed by certain interests on the imports of certain classes of goods during certain particular months, as was noticed in the last report, did considerable injury to the trade as it diverted a considerable portion of the trade to Karachi. Though the United Kingdom retained her premier position in this trade, Japan made phenomenal progress and hotly challenged her supremacy. The

Chap. IV-A. PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

position of these two countries, which are practically the sole participators in this trade, is shown in the following table:—

	1928-29.		1929-30.	
	Lbs.	Rs. lakhs.	Lbs.	Rs. lakhs.
Piece-goods—				
Grey (plain)—				
United Kingdom	61,492,183	1,49·01	20,691,908	44·80
Japan	79,182,564	1,95·91	136,722,697	3,03·07
Grey (bordered)—				
United Kingdom	429,702,228	10,07·87	410,485,184	9,16·87
Japan	32,076,368	74·10	51,577,458	1,09·47
White—				
United Kingdom	122,202,092	2,96·68	106,393,371	2,58·70
Japan	1,784,281	5·31	4,511,534	10·88
Coloured, printed or dyed—				
United Kingdom	67,840,381	2,44·24	62,978,062	2,11·68
Japan	33,082,405	86·64	45,608,549	1,07·83

It will be seen from the above table that Japan made immense strides in all departments of this trade, practically at the cost of the United Kingdom. The decline of the United Kingdom's share was attributed mainly to labour dissensions. Prices of British goods generally rule high. In order to secure a general reduction in prices to disarm competition, both the spinners and weavers suggested a reduction in the wages of the mill and factory operatives by 25 per cent. This was resisted by the trade unions, and, despite the intervention of the Ministry of Labour a lockout ensued. Eventually the matter was referred to the Arbitration Board, and as a result of the award of the Board, the price was reduced by 12½ per cent. only on the piece price list or 6·41 per cent. on the current price. This rather belated decision failed to achieve the desired end, as the demand in India at the time was very dull on account of prevailing financial stringency due to overtrading by a number of weak sellers, and to uncertainty in the political situation. An unfortunate injury to her trade was caused by the misunderstanding that arose as a result of the enquiry held into the question of external competition in the cotton piece-goods trade of India. This enquiry began in July, and soon after, an impression got afloat that a heavy protective duty would, as a result of this enquiry, be imposed on the coarser

qualities of imported goods, and, in spite of a substantial reduction in the prices of raw cotton from the month of August, very little forward business was done. The result was that the trade in standardised Japanese grey goods continued to forge ahead at a rapid pace, while the British grey shirting almost disappeared from the market.

Twists and yarns.

296. Imports of twists and yarns improved slightly in quantity from 12,121,733 lbs. to 12,413,493 lbs., but the value declined from Rs. 1,60 lakhs to Rs. 1,48 lakhs. This rise in the quantity was due to increased imports of grey yarns of counts of 26S to 30S, 31S and 40S, while the fall in the prices was due to less imports of yarns of counts 41S and above. China was again the principal contributor to this trade, her supplies advanced from 5,856,400 lbs. to 6,233,743 lbs. Next to China came the United Kingdom, but her supplies contracted to 3,947,216 lbs. against 5,011,856 lbs. in the previous year. Japan, Italy and Switzerland also improved their supplies at the cost of the United Kingdom.

Silk and artificial silk.

297. Imports of silk and artificial silk of all kinds improved from 8,879,977 yards valued at Rs. 60·01 lakhs to 10,672,365 yards valued at Rs. 62·08 lakhs. Aided by a fall in prices, imports of pure silk improved in quantity from 631,931 yards to 1,289,964 yards, and, in value, from Rs. 8·79 lakhs to Rs. 11·05 lakhs. Japan continued to hold the whip-hand in this trade, by absorbing 90 per cent. of the total silk piece-goods trade of Bengal, 60 per cent. of the mixed silk goods, and a quarter of the artificial silk goods.

Woollen goods.

298. The total value of imports of woollen goods fell from Rs. 93·23 lakhs to Rs. 84·02 lakhs. This was due to less imports under all the heads except hosiery, the imports of which improved in quantity from 125,248 lbs. to 148,354 lbs., and in value from Rs. 5·93 lakhs to Rs. 6·69 lakhs. Imports of carpets and rugs, which were a record last year, declined slightly in value from Rs. 22·39 lakhs to 20·85 lakhs.

Other articles.

299. Of the items of minor importance, the most noticeable decline was under grain, pulse and flour, the total value of which amounted to Rs. 2,63·38 lakhs against Rs. 5,17·30 lakhs, owing to the Indian wheat crop yielding a better outturn than in the previous year. Imports of lac and spices recorded marked improvements due to the increased imports of stick and seed lac, and betelnuts, respectively, from the Straits Settlements; the value of the former commodity rose from Rs. 34·62 lakhs to

Rs. 50·64 lakhs, and that of the latter from Rs. 23·77 lakhs to Rs. 1,50·28 lakhs. The expansion under boots and shoes from Rs. 20·52 lakhs to Rs. 34·97 lakhs was due to imports from Japan having risen from Rs. 69,780 to as much as Rs. 12·07 lakhs, and those from Canada from Rs. 7·41 lakhs to 9·15 lakhs. Imports of instruments, apparatus and appliances rose considerably due to an expansion in the value of electric appliances from Rs. 1,45·37 lakhs to Rs. 1,64·48 lakhs. The value of musical instruments increased from Rs. 10·17 lakhs to Rs. 17·75 lakhs. There was also considerable improvement in the imports of tea chests, due mainly to increased imports of that commodity from the United Kingdom. Due to a contraction in the indents of canned and bottled provisions, particularly from Continental Europe, there was a general decline in the imports of provisions and oilman's stores. A similar decline was also noticed under cocoanut oil, the value of which fell from Rs. 46·25 lakhs to Rs. 30·85 lakhs. A decline in the value was also recorded in the case of postal articles not specified, as the receipts through the post from the United Kingdom shrunk from Rs. 80·84 lakhs to Rs. 75·62 lakhs, and those from Italy from Rs. 19·52 lakhs to Rs. 16·72 lakhs. The total value of cigarettes, jewellery, precious stones, cinematograph films, and gold and silver thread received through the post, separately recorded under their respective heads, however increased from Rs. 7·59 lakhs to Rs. 8·07 lakhs.

Import trade of Chittagong.

300. The total value of imports from foreign countries into the port of Chittagong sustained a further decline from Rs. 2,35 lakhs to Rs. 2,07 lakhs. This falling off was more or less due to decline under practically all the heads, and more particularly under metals, the value of which contracted from Rs. 1,15·44 lakhs to Rs. 92·22 lakhs, and under salt, from Rs. 17·56 lakhs to Rs. 10·58 lakhs. The only commodity to show any sign of improvement was cotton goods, the value of which rose from Rs. 8·02 lakhs to Rs. 11·43 lakhs. The United Kingdom was again the principal participator in this trade, but her share declined by about 4 per cent. to 83 per cent. The Netherlands and Germany came next to the United Kingdom with, 4 per cent. each, and next to them came Aden with only 2 per cent.

Exports.

301. Exports of Indian merchandise from the port of Calcutta sustained a further decline from Rs. 1,37,52,30,244 to

Rs. 1,27,02,94,014. The comparative importance of the principal articles exported from Calcutta is shown in the following table:—

	1928-29.	1929-30.	Percentage of proportion to total merchandise exported.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Jute manufactures	56,81,59,808	51,86,04,597	41·01
Jute, raw	30,76,95,922	25,74,88,634	20·36
Tea	16,72,53,707	16,78,75,356	13·27
Lac	8,47,36,373	6,88,24,443	5·44
Hides and skins, raw	5,71,02,183	4,82,25,588	3·81
Metals and ores	3,67,57,809	4,30,69,384	3·41
Seeds	1,84,22,001	4,04,05,720	3·19
Grain, pulse and flour	2,96,18,835	3,01,67,468	2·39
Opium	1,57,40,000	1,42,00,000	1·12
Mica	74,24,300	85,89,847	·68
Coal, coke and patent fuel	71,81,868	1,95,583	·57
Manures	59,47,037	61,57,323	·48
Oil cakes	92,02,521	58,16,362	·46
Hemp, raw	68,06,640	47,10,885	·37
Paraffin wax	19,15,480	46,01,231	·37
Woolen manufactures	45,06,577	41,49,824	·33
Dyeing and tanning substances	57,42,366	40,15,304	·32
Postal articles	61,69,138	37,06,505	·29
Cotton, raw	58,32,014	33,45,230	·26
Provisions and oilman's stores	27,46,687	25,67,045	·21
Spices	22,35,956	25.59,640	·20
Drugs and medicines	19,46,152	22,56,452	·18
Apparel (excluding hosiery, boots and shoes) ..	13,80,312	20,70,997	·17
Oils	11,39,952	13,09,694	·10
Kapok	11,61,239	10,50,524	·08
Tobacco	13,32,177	10,40,892	·08
Instruments	7,22,944	9,82,218	·08
Cordage and rope	10,09,683	9,15,668	·07
Leather	7,83,715	8,37,779	·07
Animals ,living	7,25,095	6,74,784	·06
Saltpetre	9,64,922	6,60,324	·05
Bristles	6,59,016	5,53,424	·04
Fruits and vegetables	7,75,318	5,49,981	·04
Other articles	54,70,770	55,51,091	·44
Total Indian merchandise ..	1,36,92,68,517	1,26,47,29,797	100·00
Total Foreign merchandise re-exported ..	59,61,727	55,64,217	
Total merchandise ..	1,37,52,30,244	1,27,02,94,014	

302. The export trade in grain, pulse and flour, recovered, under all the heads from 149,148 tons valued at Rs. 2,96·19 lakhs to Rs. 154,046 lakhs valued at Rs. 3,01·67 lakhs. This improvement was the result of increased exports of rice, from 106,884 tons to 120,021 tons due to the price of the Bengal boiled rice, which composed most of the exports, ruling lower than similar products from Burma and Saigon. Mauritius was again the chief customer, but her purchases declined slightly from 26,216 tons to 24,613 tons. A similar decline was also noticed in the case of most of the other purchasing countries, except Ceylon and the Bahrein Islands, whose purchases increased from 12,024 tons to 18,979 tons, and from 4,876 tons to 11,580 tons, respectively.

Grains, pulse and flour.

Exports of wheat declined considerably from 1,528 tons to 117 tons but the export of wheat flour increased from 2,058 tons to 2,613 tons. Shipments of barley, which made a considerable recovery last year, dwindled to 60 tons only against 7,064 tons in

the previous year, due to a smaller crop, which kept the price of this cereal above the exporting parity. Export of pulses declined slightly from 30,869 tons to 30,850 tons, but increased, in value, from Rs. 53·77 lakhs to Rs. 56·58 lakhs.

Tea.

303. The tea industry of Bengal, after a comparatively slack year, made record strides during the year under report. Aided by favourable weather conditions and ample supplies of labour, there was a record production of tea, the total outturn coming up to 371 million lbs. against 341 million lbs. in the previous year, and 355 million lbs. in 1917. The quality of the produce, though not of a very high order, was, on the whole, good. Apart from this, the year did not prove to be equally satisfactory from a financial point of view, as, owing to continued increased production by all the tea producing countries, prices generally ruled low. The average price per lb. according to the shipping bill, came to 10 annas 10 pies only against 11 annas 8 pies in the previous year, and 14 annas 5 pies in 1927. The price of tea dust was also lower than for many years past owing to the absence of any support from Hankow.

The total quantity of tea exported from Calcutta to the various importing countries amounted to 247,352,676 lbs. valued at Rs. 16,78·75 lakhs against 229,908,528 lbs. valued at Rs. 16,72·54 lakhs in the previous year. The United Kingdom, which is practically the world's market for tea, continued to be the chief customer by absorbing 78 per cent. of the total shipments against 75 per cent. in the previous year. Exports to Canada, Africa, the United States of America and Persia also increased, while those to Turkey in Asia, Germany, Iraq, South America and particularly to Australia declined. Exports to China also declined heavily from 6 million lbs. to only 11,824 lbs. A noteworthy feature of the trade was the direct shipment of tea to Russia, whose total takings, advanced from 4,138,702 lbs. to 5,298,350 lbs.

Coal.

304. Export of coal to foreign ports improved slightly, in quantity, from 638,774 tons to 685,063 tons, and, in value, from Rs. 71·32 lakhs to Rs. 71·56 lakhs. This advance in the trade was mainly due to increases in the exports to Ceylon from 348,104 tons to 360,251 tons, and to the Straits Settlements from 58,466 tons to 59,013 tons. The total shipments to the other countries rose from 232,204 tons to 265,799 tons.

Lac.

305. The trade in lac, which made some recovery last year, again received a set back. The total exports of the commodity (both manufactured and raw) declined to 658,910 cwts. valued at Rs. 6,88·24 lakhs, against 721,803 cwts. valued at Rs. 8,47·36

lakhs in the previous year. Owing to the poor outturn of the crops, and the general trade depression, shipments of seed and stick lac declined from 98,711 cwts. to 66,035 cwts., the United States alone cutting down her requirements by 25,421 cwts. to 52,337 cwts. Exports of button and shellac, due to smaller shipments to the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany, also declined from 555,361 cwts. to 522,390 cwts. Exports of lac, other sorts, experienced a similar decline, the total declining to 136,520 cwts. against 166,442 cwts. in the previous year.

Hides and skins.

306. Due to the general trade depression, the year proved to be a bad one for this trade. During the year the total exports of all kinds of hides and skins amounted to 27,104 tons only, against 36,175 tons in the previous year and 39,749 tons in 1927. This figure but for those of 1920-21, was the lowest for many decades past.

Exports of raw hides declined from 23,951 tons to 17,935 tons, and the value from Rs. 2,41·13 lakhs to Rs. 1,96·00 lakhs. This falling off was due to smaller purchase by practically all foreign countries, and more especially by Germany and the United Kingdom, whose purchase declined from 10,508 tons to 7,809 tons, and from 268 tons to only 82 tons, respectively.

In raw skins the exports similarly diminished from 10,316 tons, valued at Rs. 3,27·21 lakhs to 7,488 tons valued at Rs. 2,83·56 lakhs. Here again, the decline was attributed to weaker demand from France and the Netherlands, and more particularly from the United States, whose purchase fell from 8,635 tons to 5,990 tons. The United Kingdom was the only country to stiffen her purchases which rose from 86 tons to 190 tons.

Exports of cuttings of hides and skins (raw) also declined from 1,872 tons to 1,650 tons, and those of dressed hides and skins from 36 tons to 31 tons, but due to the prices ruling higher than the last year, the value in both the cases somewhat improved: the former from Rs. 2·68 lakhs to Rs. 2·69 lakhs, and the latter from Rs. 6·94 lakhs to Rs. 7·21 lakhs.

Metals and ores.

307. The progress made in this trade last year was fully maintained, and exports under all the heads made considerable headway. The total shipments of manganese ore improved, in quantity, from 398,471 tons to 441,567 tons, and in value from Rs. 1,16 lakhs to Rs. 1,28 lakhs. The United Kingdom secured more than one-third of this trade by improving her purchases from 115,700 tons to 156,244 tons. Belgium also improved her purchase from 113,010 tons to 129,499 tons, but France and the United States required less. There were no shipments of ferro-manganese during the year.

The total exports of pig iron rose from 448,717 tons to 568,733 tons and the value from Rs. 211·31 lakhs to Rs. 259·36 lakhs. A noteworthy feature of the trade was the record shipment to the United Kingdom the total quantity being as much as 71,277 tons against only 5,522 tons in the previous year. The United States also increased her demands from 52,541 tons to 86,059 tons, and so did Germany and Italy. But the bulk of the business was, as usual, carried on with Japan, which took 349,472 tons valued at Rs. 158·62 lakhs as against 353,581 tons valued at Rs. 168·20 lakhs. The demand for scrap iron and steel improved from 66,883 tons to 72,987 tons, and the value from Rs. 19·79 lakhs to Rs. 25·08 lakhs. Japan was again the principal consumer of these articles, her total takings advancing from 60,306 tons to 64,967 tons. Shipments of lead also improved from 25,853 cwts. to 28,899 cwts. but those of tin, zinc and other metals declined.

Mica.

308. The trade in mica recorded considerable progress during the year, the total exports improving from 84,661 cwts. valued at Rs. 74·24 lakhs to 102,116 cwts. (comprised of 89,292 cwts. of splittings and 12,824 cwts. of block mica) valued at Rs. 85·90 lakhs. The United States was again the principal customer, and improved her purhases from 30,185 cwts. to 42,061 cwts., which included 5,819 cwts. of block mica. The United Kingdom increased her share from 30,003 cwts. to 31,835 cwts., including 3,619 cwts. of block mica. France's share rose from 2,983 to 8,574 cwts. Japan was the only country to cut down her demands to any appreciable extent from 5,690 cwts. to 3,174 cwts.

Oilseeds and vegetable oils.

309. Exports of oilseeds and vegetable oils, made considerable recovery under practically all the heads, the total advancing in value from Rs. 2,82·86 lakhs to Rs. 4,72·68 lakhs. This expansion in the trade was the outcome of increased shipments to linseed, castor seed and vegetable oils in spite of a substantial reduction in the shipments of oilcakes.

Owing to the failure of linseed crops in other producing countries, e.g., Canada, the United States of America and the River Plate, the demand for linseed from all the countries was heavy, and consequently the total exports of the commodity rose in quantity from 77,002 tons to 168,427 tons, and, in value, from 1,56·80 lakhs to Rs. 3,72·77 lakhs. The countries to increase their purchases most were the United Kingdom from 9,850 tons to 58,952 tons, and France from 18,176 tons to 42,170 tons. Exports of rape seed dropped from 760 tons to only 13 tons, due to the absence of demand from the United Kingdom and Japan. Exports of castor seed improved from 7,901 tons to 11,642 tons due, mainly, to the United Kingdom increasing her purchases from 600 tons to 4,194 tons. Shipments of vegetable oils rose

from 468,462 gallons to 554,331 gallons, and, in value, from Rs. 11·17 lakhs to Rs. 13·03 lakhs, as a result of an increase in the exports of linseed oil from 46,326 gallons to 169,027 gallons of which the Straits Settlements took 51,223 gallons, and the Philippines 31,502 gallons. Exports of msutard or rape oil declined from 264,738 gallons to 228,318 gallons, and those of oil cakes, from 84,587 tons valued at Rs. 92·03 lakhs to 57,019 tons valued at Rs. 58·16 lakhs. The fall in the exports of oil cakes was due to smaller shipments of all kinds of oil cakes except ground nut cakes, which, due to the requirements of Ceylon improving from 6,83 tons valued at Rs. 72,334 to 9,158 tons valued at Rs. 9·31 lakhs, showed improved business.

Cotton and cotton manufactures.

310. The trade of Bengal sustained a further set back, the total shipments declining from 6,062 tons valued at Rs. 57·55 lakhs to 4,010 tons valued at Rs. 33·45 lakhs. This falling off was due to less purchases by all the foreign countries except only the United Kingdom, which increased her purchases from 57 tons to 206 tons. Exports of twists and yarns also declined from 22,318 tons valued at Rs. ·14 lakhs to 14,896 tons valued at Rs. ·10 lakhs, due to the absence of any demand from the Straits Settlements aganst her total purchases of 8,596 tons in the previous year.

Hemp.

311. After a year of satisfactory progress, this trade of Bengal fell off considerably, despite the facts that the crop was good and the average price of the commodity was lower than in the previous year. The total exports amounted to 315,689 cwts. valued at Rs. 47·11 lakhs against 453,913 cwts. valued at Rs. 68·06 lakhs. Belgium was again the principal customer, but her purchases contracted from 245,797 cwts. to 123,779 cwts., in quantity and from Rs. 36·15 lakhs to Rs. 17·47 lakhs in value. Shipments to Italy, also fell from 54,967 cwts. to 21,774 cwts., but those to Germany rose from 44,956 cwts. to 55,671 cwts. and to the United States from 15,524 cwts. to 22,746 cwts. Shipments to the United Kingdom was steady at 37,876 cwts.

Jute and jute manufactures.

312. Despite the low level of the prices of raw jute throughout the year, this principal, or, in fact, the monopoly trade of Bengal met with a considerable set back due obviously to the general trade depression throughout the world. The total shipments of both manufactured and raw jute amounted to 1,724,224 tons against the record figure of 1,768,272 tons and in value to Rs. 77,60·93 lakhs against Rs. 87,58·56 lakhs in the previous year. This contraction in the trade had its repercussions on the business of the Indian jute mills, whose profits declined from Rs. 7·23 crores to Rs. 6·26 crores. The net collections of jute cess for the

Calcutta Improvement Trust, however, advanced from 12·31 lakhs to Rs. 13·73 lakhs.

The year opened with the price of first marks of raw jute ruling at Rs. 69 per bale of 400 lbs., and by the first week of July it had come down to Rs. 62. On the publication of the preliminary forecast this quotation remained steady for sometime, but it declined to Rs. 59 by the end of October. Thereafter it again took a downward course and by the end of March it fell to Rs. 45 per bale, the lowest figure recorded for some years past. The imports into Calcutta from the cultivating centres amounted to 90·9 lakhs of bales as against 94·5 lakhs of bales in the previous year. The average shipment price for the year was Rs. 59-14-6 per bale as against Rs. 64-0-4 per bale in the previous year.

In spite of this low level of the prices, exports of raw jute declined by over 5 lakhs of bales, the total quantity amounting to 767,543 tons valued at Rs. 25,74·88 lakhs, against 858,260 tons valued at Rs. 30,76·96 lakhs. This set back was due to smaller demands from practically all the countries and more especially from Germany and the United Kingdom.

Shipments of gunny bags improved by about 24½ million bags to 497,760 bags, but the value, due to low prices of raw jute, declined by about Rs. 302·66 lakhs to 21,84·69 lakhs. Australia was again the chief customer, but her total purchases dropped by about 17 million bags. Java also curtailed her requirements by about 5 million bags. The countries to improve their purchases were Hongkong by about 16 million bags, the United Kingdom by 8 million bags, Japan by 7 million bags and Belgium by 5 million bags.

Exports of gunny cloth also improved, in yardage, from 1,567 millions to 1,650 millions, but the value, due to lower prices of raw jute, declined from Rs. 31,61·44 lakhs to Rs. 29,68·37 lakhs. improvement in the quantity, which amounted to about 83 million yards, was the result of increased shipments of hessian cloth by about 96 million yards, and decreased shipments of sacking cloth by about 13 million yards. The United States was again the chief customer for these goods, and improved her purchases by about 50 million yards. The United Kingdom also improved her purchases by 29 million yards, from 29 million yards to 58 million yards, and so did Canada by 6 million yards and Australia by 4 million yards. The countries to curtail their requirements were the Argentine by 11 million yards and China by about 7 million yards.

Opium.

313. Exports of opium sustained a further drop from 3,935 chests valued at Rs. 1,57·40 lakhs to 3,550 chests valued at Rs. 1,42·00 lakhs. This set back was solely due to Java cutting down her requirements from 964 chests to 604 chests, and Siam from 1,391 chests to 1,233 chests. Indo-China, however, improved her demands from 1,522 chests to 1,662 chests.

Dyeing and tanning substances.

314. The export trade in these articles declined further from 36,419 tons to 24,780 tons, in quantity, and from Rs. 57·42 lakhs to Rs. 40·15 lakhs, in value. This falling off was due to the contraction in the shipments of myrobalans, which formed the bulk of the trade. Owing to smaller shipments to the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States exports of nuts also fell from 33,252 tons valued at Rs. 45·81 lakhs to 22,953 tons valued at Rs. 33·44 lakhs. The demand for myrobalan extracts from the United Kingdom the principal customer, declined from 26,693 cwts. to 9,805 cwts. Shipments of Cutch and Gambier also shrank from 7,298 cwts. to 5,196 cwts., and that of tumeric from 2,478 cwts. to 1,427 cwts., but that of safflower improved from 1,546 cwts. to 1,692 cwts. The demand for indigo dropped from 628 cwts. to 537 cwts. due to the United Kingdom requiring only 112 cwts. against 245 cwts., in the previous year. The average price of indigo was Rs. 306-10-5 pies per cwt. against Rs. 276-0-4 pies per cwt. in the previous year.

Other articles.

315. Of the articles of minor importance, shipments of bones, which is the main item under manures, improved, in value, from Rs. 44·48 lakhs to Rs. 54·50 lakhs. This advance was due, mainly, to increased purchases by Belgium, from Rs. 20·55 lakhs to Rs. 27·95 lakhs, and by the United States of America, France and Ceylon. The marked expansion in the exports of paraffin wax from Rs. 19·15 lakhs to Rs. 46·01 lakhs was mainly the result of the revival of this trade with the United Kingdom, whose purchases ran up to Rs. 22·61 lakhs. This article, it is reported, is now being freely used for the manufacture of candles and matches; it is also required for the purpose of being put under or round the corks of bottles to prevent leakage of air. The decline in the shipments of woollen manufactures was due to smaller supplies of carpets and rugs to the United Kingdom and the United States. The value of articles sent by post also showed considerable decline. The improvement in the shipments of spices was entirely due to Ceylon increasing her imports of chillies from Rs. 17·43 lakhs to Rs. 22·14 lakhs. Exports of drugs and medicines also improved from Rs. 16·60 lakhs to Rs. 19·07 lakhs. Hongkong acquiring most of this business. Exports of ghee, the main item under provisions increased from Rs. 21·22 lakhs to Rs. 22·28 lakhs. The

decline in the shipments of tobacco was due to the contraction in the purchases by Japan from Rs. 11·32 lakhs to Rs. 8·06 lakhs. Exports of saltpetre also fell from Rs. 9·65 lakhs to Rs. 6·60 lakhs.

Foreign exports from Chittagong.

316. The export trade of Chittagong with foreign ports recorded a further decline, the value receding from Rs. 7,39 lakhs to Rs. 6,64 lakhs. This decline was due to contraction in the shipments of both tea and raw jute, the total value realized in the case of the former being Rs. 4,90·65 lakhs, and in the case of the latter Rs. 1,31·14 lakhs, against Rs. 5,64·25 lakhs and Rs. 1,48·98 lakhs respectively in the previous year.

The United Kingdom was, as usual, the principal participator in this trade. She accounted for 91 per cent. of the total trade, against 4 per cent. by the United States and 3 per cent. by Germany.

317. The following table shows the distribution of the import and export trade of Calcutta:—

	Imports.				Exports.			
	1928-29.		1929-30.		1928-29.		1929-30.	
	Value Rs. (lakhs).	Percentage of total imports.	Value Rs. (lakhs).	Percentage of total imports.	Value Rs. (lakhs).	Percentage of total exports.	Value Rs. (lakhs).	Percentage to total exports.
United Kngdon	44,21·98	51·03	40,12·09	49·34	26,75·64	19·46	27,03·17	21·28
British Possessions ..	9,23·44	10·66	7,30·66	8·99	19,78·47	14·38	18,24·04	14·36
Germany	4,13·65	4·77	4,03·73	4·97	12,21·31	8·88	9,97·82	7·85
France	80·94	·93	81·18	1·00	5,59·18	4·07	5,51·85	4·34
Belgium	1,70·22	1·97	1,73·00	2·13	3,57·48	2·60	3,30·06	2·60
Italy	1,62·93	1·88	1,60·39	1·97	2,88·15	2·09	2,64·90	2·09
Java	6,47·25	7·47	5,84·56	7·19	2,83·41	2·06	2,09·02	1·65
Japan	5,97·52	6·90	8,15·74	10·03	4,15·26	3·02	3,84·20	3·02
United States	5,27·65	6·09	5,27·93	6·49	31,96·45	23·25	28,73·59	22·62
South America	13·30	·15	15·96	·20	10,76·47	7·83	9,71·21	7·65
Other countries	7,06·77	8·15	6,25·51	7·69	17,00·48	12·36	15,93·08	12·54
Total ..	86,65·65	100·00	81,30·75	100·00	1,37,52·30	100·00	1,27,02·94	100·00

The trade of the United Kingdom with Calcutta recorded a further decline from Rs. 70,97·84 lakhs to Rs. 67,15·26 lakhs. This falling off was due to a drop in the value of imports, which an advance in the value of exports failed to balance. In spite of this decline, the share of the United Kingdom in the total trade of Calcutta improved from 31·66 per cent. to 32·23 per cent.

On the import side, the value declined from Rs. 44,22 lakhs to Rs. 40,12 lakhs, due, mainly, to the drop in value of cotton piece-goods by about Rs. 2,61 lakhs. Less receipts under cotton twist and yarn, machinery and mill work, and motor cars also went to augment the deficit. There was, however, some improvement under cigarettes, and instruments, apparatus and appliances. On the export side, the value, despite general trade depression, advanced, slightly, from Rs. 26,75·64 lakhs to Rs. 27,03·17 lakhs. This expansion was due to a record value realized under seeds from Rs. 21 lakhs to Rs. 1,36 lakhs, and also to improved business done under tea, jute manufactures, pig iron, manganese ore, and paraffin wax. There was, however, a sharp decline in the value of raw jute by Rs. 1,87 lakhs, and lac by Rs. 45 lakhs.

The trade with British possessions and dependencies, after a year of great improvement, contracted from Rs. 29,02 lakhs to Rs. 25,55 lakhs, due to a decline in the value of both imports and exports. On the import side, the value declined from Rs. 9,23 lakhs to Rs. 7,31 lakhs. This falling off was attributed to the contraction in the value of imports of wheat from Australia by about Rs. 2,21 lakhs, and also from Canada by about Rs. 13 lakhs, and to less imports of cocoanut oil from Ceylon, and rubber manufactures and motor cars from Canada. The imports of lac and betelnuts from the Straits Settlements, however, increased by Rs. 67 lakhs. On the export side, the total value also declined from Rs. 19,78 lakhs to Rs. 18,24 lakhs, due primarily to the contraction in the shipment of gunny bags to Australia by about 1,79 lakhs, of jute manufactures to South Africa, of rice to Mauritius, and also to fewer articles being sent by post to the Straits Settlements. There were, however, increased exports of rice and spices to Ceylon and gunny bags, and drugs and medicines to Hongkong.

Imports from Germany declined by about Rs. 10 lakhs due to smaller imports of oils, umbrella fittings, dyeing and tanning substances, haberdashery and millinery and glassware, which the increased imports under metals and cutlery failed to balance. Exports to Germany also fell by about Rs. 2,23 lakhs owing, chiefly, to smaller shipments of raw jute by Rs. 1,51 lakhs, lac by Rs. 31 lakhs, and hides by Rs. 29 lakhs. There was no appreciable change in the value of imports from France, Belgium and Italy.

But the exports to France declined by Rs. 7 lakhs, noticeably by the contraction in the exports of raw jute by Rs. 48 lakhs, hides and skins by Rs. 13 lakhs; and manganese ore by Rs. 3 lakhs, in spite of a substantial increase in the exports of oil seeds by Rs. 58 lakhs; to Belgium by Rs. 27 lakhs owing to shipments of raw jute contracting by Rs. 36 lakhs, and raw hemp by Rs. 19 lakhs; and to Italy by Rs. 23 lakhs, on account of smaller shipments of raw jute, by Rs. 39 lakhs, and also of raw hemp. The last country however, took increased quantities of hides and skins, metals and ores, and linseed, the value of the latter rising from Rs. 63,000 to Rs. 12·41 lakhs. Exports to Russia increased by Rs. 9 lakhs owing to her taking increased quantities of tea, jute manufactures and raw jute. Austria's share in the import trade fell, as she sent smaller quantities of paper making materials, hardware and metal ore, and in the export trade she took no part. Imports of vegetable products from the Netherlands declined by Rs. 23 lakhs to Rs. 17 lakhs. Exports of raw hides and skins to that country declined by about Rs. 17 lakhs, while that of raw jute improved by Rs. 10 lakhs. Imports from Norway of paper and pasteboard increased by Rs. 9 lakhs, and that of woodpulp by about Rs. 5 lakhs. Imports of paper and pasteboard, and paper-making materials from Norway improved by Rs. 8 lakhs and Rs. 4 lakhs, respectively. Imports of matches from Sweden further contracted to Rs. 1·15 lakhs. Exports of gunny bags to Greece fell by Rs. 16 lakhs to Rs. 15 lakhs.

Of Asiatic countries, the import trade with Japan increased from Rs. 5,97·52 lakhs to Rs. 8,15·74 lakhs, while the export trade declined from Rs. 4,15·26 lakhs to Rs. 3,84·20 lakhs. The increase in the imports was due to her enormous supply of textiles, the value of which expanded from Rs. 1,86 lakhs to Rs. 6,66 lakhs, and metals and ores, timber, toys, toilets requisites and paper and pasteboards. The decrease in the exports was due to smaller shipment of linseed, and pig iron, in spite of increased shipments of gunny bags and raw jute. The improvement recorded last year in the trade with Java was not maintained. Due to a decline in her supply of sugar by about Rs. 64 lakhs imports fell from Rs. 6,47·25 lakhs to Rs. 5,84·56 lakhs. A similar decline was experienced in exports due to a contraction in the shipment of gunny bags by Rs. 58 lakhs. Imports from China were steady, but the exports declined considerably, as she took tea worth Rs. 7,000 only against Rs. 48 lakhs in the previous year. Borneo sent increased quantities of lubricating and fuel oil, but less of kerosene oil. Imports of kerosene oil from Persia fell by about Rs. 15 lakhs, but shipments of tea improved by Rs. 5 lakhs. Exports of jute manufactures to the Philippines increased by Rs. 11 lakhs.

Imports of salt from Egypt declined, but she raised her purchase of linseed from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 31 lakhs. She also increased her purchases of tea, raw jute and gunny bags considerably. Exports of paraffin wax to Portuguese East Africa decreased.

The total value of the imports from the United States was very much the same as in previous year. There was considerable improvement in the imports of kerosene oil, the value rising from Rs. 29 lakhs to Rs. 80 lakhs. Her supply of motor omnibuses also rose by Rs. 13 lakhs to Rs. 34 lakhs, but her supply of motor cars fell by about Rs. 30 lakhs. Her supply of machinery and mill-work, tobacco, lubricating oil and tinned sheets and plates also declined. On the export side, her share declined from Rs. 31,96·45 lakhs to Rs. 28,73·59 lakhs, due, mainly, to smaller shipments of gunny cloth, raw jute, lac, hides and skins, raw cotton, gunny bags and manganese ore. She, however, took more of pig iron.

Exports of gunny cloth and raw jute to the Argentine Republic declined. Brazil took increased quantities of raw jute, while Chili curtailed her requirements of gunny bags and tea. Exports of gunny bags to Peru and Cuba declined, while that of rice to Cuba improved.

Coasting Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1929-30.]

Imports.

318. Although Burma appropriated more than a moiety of this trade, the total value of her supplies shrunk from Rs. 14,25·53 lakhs to Rs. 10,57·35 lakhs. This decline was mainly due to a heavy fall in the imports of rice from Rs. 6,68 lakhs to Rs. 1,68 lakhs, which the increased receipts under mineral oil, from Rs. 3,32 lakhs to Rs. 4,94 lakhs, and timber from Rs. 1,42 lakhs to Rs. 1,70 lakhs, failed to balance. Imports of lac from Burma also declined from Rs. 80 lakhs to Rs. 62 lakhs, and paddy, from Rs. 28 lakhs to a lakh only. Imports from Bombay improved from Rs. 2,54·36 lakhs to Rs. 3,31·14 lakhs due, chiefly, to her increased supplies of grey piece-goods, which advanced from Rs. 99 lakhs to Rs. 1,67 lakhs, twist and yarn, from Rs. 24 lakhs to Rs. 31 lakhs, salt, from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 15 lakhs, and groundnut oil, from Rs. 11 lakhs to Rs. 30 lakhs. Imports from Madras also expanded from Rs. 2,84·09 lakhs to Rs. 3,33·73 lakhs, as a result of increased receipts under cocoanut oil, from Rs. 22 lakhs to Rs. 53 lakhs, groundnuts, from Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 17 lakhs, and raw cotton, from Rs. 45 lakhs to Rs. 60 lakhs. Imports from Sind, after heavy inflation last year, declined from Rs. 61·67

lakhs to Rs. 22·51 lakhs, due to her supplies of wheat contracting from Rs. 46 lakhs to Rs. 6 lakhs. By an expansion in the imports of rice and paddy from Bihar and Orissa, the total value of imports from that province advanced from Rs. 2·63 lakhs to Rs. 4·07 lakhs. Imports from non-British ports in India also increased from Rs. 58·29 lakhs to Rs. 85·51 lakhs.

Exports.

319. The export trade of Calcutta with the Indian Ports declined, in value, from Rs. 15,07·28 lakhs to Rs. 13,38·79 lakhs. This falling off was the result of contraction in the total shipments of jute manufactures, from Rs. 5,27 lakhs to Rs. 3,96 lakhs, gunny bags from Rs. 4,52 lakhs to Rs. 3,34 lakhs, and gunny cloth, from Rs. 56 lakhs to Rs. 46 lakhs. Exports of gunny bags to Burma fell, from Rs. 2,51 lakhs to Rs. 2,04 lakhs, and to Bombay, from Rs. 1,12 lakhs to Rs. 66 lakhs. Shipments of coal advanced from Rs. 1,85 lakhs to Rs. 2,12 lakhs due to Burma raising her purchases, from 584,190 tons to 703,247 tons, Bombay from 331,222 tons to 372,136 tons, Madras from 456,414 tons to 543,135 tons, and Sind, from 132,220 tons to 142,488 tons. The demand for pulse improved from Rs. 31 lakhs to Rs. 37 lakhs, Madras taking quantities worth Rs. 13 lakhs, as against Rs. 2 lakhs in the previous year. Exports of *ghee* declined from Rs. 32 lakhs to Rs. 23 lakhs, of twists and yarns from Rs. 43 lakhs to Rs. 32 lakhs, while, tea advanced from Rs. 75 lakhs to Rs. 82 lakhs. Burma reduced her demand of tobacco, manufactured, from Rs. 39 lakhs to Rs. 18 lakhs, but counterbalanced it by increasing her purchases of manufactured tobacco from Rs. 11 lakhs to Rs. 32 lakhs.

Marine Department.

Port of Calcutta.

Port and Port approaches.

320. In certain parts of the river the deteriorative forces were stronger than usual with the result that outward bound vessels of deep draught were affected. The Middleton, the outermost bar, deteriorated to a depth of 13′ 9″ at the end of March and was the governing bar on 243 days during the year. There was abnomal shoaling in Nurpur Reach which caused it to be the governing bar on 65 days during the year. The Eastern Gut Bar was, as usual, the most obstinate obstacle to navigation. It shoaled to a minimum depth of 11′ 9″ for two days in August. It was the governing bar for 38 days during the year. Royapur Crossing was more unstable than usual and in September the available depth for a short period fell to 14′ 9″. It was the governing bar for 19 days. Moyapur Bar was appreciably more stable than it was in 1928-29 or in 1927-28.

Chap. IV-A. PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

With a view to minimising delays experiments were carried out in mooring vessels at Uluberia and a proposal was submitted to Government to extend the Port limits in order to utilize Uluberia as an anchorage.

Trade.

321. The total tonnage of ships entering the port and the total tonnage of goods handled at the docks, jetties, etc., continued to show slight improvement. The total number of vessels entering the port was 1,496 with a nett tonnage of 4,985,999 as against 4,818,831 in the previous year. The total tonnage of goods handled was 10,871,166 as against 10,840,284 in the previous year.

Revenue.

322. The income for the year amounted to Rs. 3,43,98,110 and the expenditure to Rs. 3,65,42,388. There was therefore a deficit of Rs. 21,44,278, due mainly to the fact that during the year revenue for the first time had to bear a full year's interest charges on the capital cost of the construction of King George's Dock. The Commissioners' charges were increased from the 1st April 1925 with a view to building up a Revenue Reserve Fund to meet the annual deficits anticipated on the opening of King George's Dock. The Revenue Reserve Fund amounted on the 31st March 1930, to over Rs. 1,26,50,000. Although results up to the end of the year 1929-30 are regarded as favourable, an increased deficit is anticipated on the working of the next year owing to depression of trade.

Capital.

323. The year opened with a balance on capital account of slightly over Rs. 20 lakhs and during the year Rs. 60 lakhs were borrowed from the Imperial Bank of India on promissory notes issued under the Local Authorities Loan Act. The closing balance on the 31st March 1930 was Rs. 9,62,432.

Finance. Howrah Bridge.

324. The year opened with a debit balance of Rs. 1,23,751. The income for the year amounted to Rs. 3,94,495 and the ordinary expenditure to Rs. 4,05,477. There was a special expenditure of Rs. 6,546 on the provision of new shore spans. The year closed with a debit balance of Rs. 1,41,279.

The total indebtedness of the Bridge to the Port Commissioners stood at Rs. 2,37,098.

The Bridge was opened for the passage of vessels on 288 occasions and 5,232 vessels passed through it during the year.

Pilotage of the port.

325. The administration of the Bengal Pilot Service remained with the local Government as agents of the Government of India up to the end of the year 1929-30. From the 1st April 1930, the Government of India took over direct control of the service. The review of the administration of the service for the year devolves upon the Government of India.

CHAPTER IV-B.—Production and distribution.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Buildings and Roads.

326. The Revenue realised during the year amounted to Rs. 8·92 lakhs of which Rs. 5·24 lakhs were Provincial. **Revenue and expenditure.**

The expenditure including communications (Rs. 27·95 lakhs) totalled Rs. 131·66 lakhs including about Rs. 21·26 lakhs for "Establishment, tools and plant." Of this total Rs. 8·38 lakhs were for Central works, Rs. 12·83 lakhs for Provincial works (Reserved) and Rs. 61·89 lakhs for Provincial Works (Transferred). Rs. 0·23 lakhs were expended on contribution works and Rs. 2·62 lakhs on grants-in-aid and Rs. 24·45 lakhs on "60—Civil works not charged to Revenue."

327. The Gumti gateway at Gour was converted into a Museum. The combined Post and Telegraph Office with Post Master's quarters at Jalapahar was completed. Special repairs to the Satgambuz Mosque at Bagerhat were in progress. **Central Buildings.**

328. Rs. 44·57 lakhs were spent under "Transferred" head and Rs. 4·47 lakhs under the "Reserved" head. **Provincial Buildings.**

Education buildings accounted for Rs. 8·22 lakhs, buildings in connection with General Administration Rs. 8·72 lakhs, buildings relating to Administration of Justice, Police, Medical, Jails and other Civil Works Rs. 32·10 lakhs.

Of the several works completed the more important ones were the following:—

Medical School Hostel at Burdwan; High English School at Bhola; Hostel and Superintendent's quarters for the Ashanulla School of Engineering, Dacca; Married quarters for Deputy Commissioners and Inspectors, Lall Bazar; Married Sergeants' quarters, Kapalitola; Police Section House at Shampukur; New Police Lines at Barisal; New Civil Station buildings at Alipur Duars; certain buildings in connection with the new Police lines at Bogra; Civil Surgeon's residence at Malda; Public Works Department

Subdivisional offices of Nos. I and III subdivisions of the 3rd Calcutta Division; two Munsifs' quarters at Katwa; Dairy and workshed in the Hooghly Jail; Civil Surgeon's residence at Burdwan; Temporary Subdivisional Court and offices at Serajganj; second female ward at Darjeeling Jail; two twin quarters for head constables in the Police Training College at Sardah; quarters for the Anglican Chaplain in the Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong; Public Works Department Dispensary building at Teesta Bridge; screw pile jetty to the Government Dockyard at Narayanganj and dredging the river in front of the Dockyard; dispensary building with Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters and outhouses and compounder's quarters at Langadu; purchase of land and buildings at Dum-Dum and execution of additions and alterations to make the buildings suitable for the Chinsura Eastern Frontier Rifles; acquisition of land for a playground and swimming tank for the students of the Calcutta Madrassa and Islamia College and for Hostel for the students of the Bethune College; certain improvements to the workshed in wards Nos. 3 and 4 in the Central Jail at Midnapore; additions and alterations to the Silk Weaving Institute at Berhampore and to the Treasury Section of the Pabna Collectorate. The erosion of the river Jamuna at Serajganj necessitated the dismantlement of the local Subdivisional Court buildings, the Police office and the Treasury.

Of works under construction at the end of the year, the most important was the Bengal Legislative Council building on which good progress was made during the year. In addition the following works were also in course of construction at the end of the year:—

Construction of the Police Section House at Barabazar; the Traffic Police Barrack at Porabazar; the Calcutta Medical College—Eden Hospital Extension Buildings; Press shed in connection with the Settlement Buildings at Chinsura; a court house for the Additional District Judge and two Munsifs at Asansol; Guru Training School at Katwa; Anatomical Museum and Lecture Theatre attached to the Medical School at Burdwan; additional buildings for the Serampur Weaving Institute; a Record Room and a residence for the Collector of Pabna (practically completed); special Veterinary Dispensary and Inspector's Quarters at Jalpaiguri; Quarters for the Sub-Assistant Surgeon attached to the Jalpaiguri Jail; quarters No. I for an Armed Sub-Inspector in the Police Lines at Jalpaiguri; Civil Surgeon's

residence at Rajshahi; quarters for the Superintendent of Excise and Salt at Rangpur; combined office and quarters for the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer at Bogra; extra Barrack for male undertrial prisoners in the Netrakona Sub-Jail; new Police Hospital at Jessore; Medical Schools at Chittagong and Barisal; staff quarters and Dispensary for the Bengal Survey School at Mainamati; additions and alterations to the Collector's court buildings and Settlement building at Suri (nearly completed) and to the Munsif's court at Contai (nearly completed); extension of the Leper Ward in the Midnapore Central Jail and the Sadar Registration offices at Mymensingh and Faridpur. Construction of the Medical School at Jalpaiguri was practically completed.

The Consulting Architect to the Government of Bengal.

329. Besides inspecting works under construction and giving advice and suggestions about building work in contemplation, the Consulting Architect prepared and supplied drawings for 39 projects during the year. Some of them were very important. The project for the Calcutta Customs House, a Government of India building, is estimated to cost Rs. 21,00,000. Much time and attention had to be given to the sketch plan for a project of this size to arrive at the most satisfactory arrangement and most economical type of planning.

Communications.

330. The total expenditure on communications during the year under report was Rs. 27,95,318 of which Rs. 2,27,984 was spent by the Government of India on Central Communications.

The total length of metalled roads in the Province (including Sikkim) rose from 3,481 to 3,489 miles, and the length of unmetalled roads from 35,961 to 36,819 miles. These figures include 2,563 miles of metalled and 36,094 miles of unmetalled roads maintained by district and local funds, but exclude roads maintained by Municipalities.

The following works were in progress during the year:—

(1) The acquisition of land in connection with the construction of an Approach Road to the Railway Bridge at Bally.

(2) Widening and improving of the Grand Trunk Road from 7 3/8th mile to Paltaghat at mile 19 7/8th.

(3) Treating with a 3" cement macadam a portion of the Lebong Road in Darjeeling in the first quarter of the 2nd mile.

(4) The reconstruction of the bridge over the Bhalukhola in Darjeeling. The work was taken in hand during the year and was nearing completion at the close.

(5) The strengthening of bridges on the Hilli-Balurghat Road. Out of the seven bridges proposed to be strengthened, four were completed and work on the remaining three was in progress.

(6) Replacing the existing wooden bridges on the Tandu Forest Road by permanent structures. The work was started during the year under report.

The following works were completed during the year:—

(1) Improvements to the Barrackpore Trunk Road with 2″ tar and pitch macadam. These were begun in 1927 and were completed during the year under review.

(2) Improvements to the Rishi Road from Tista Bridge to Kalimpong.

(3) Re-aligning the Buxa Forest Road from Alipur Duars to Rajabhatkhawa, including the bridges and culverts.

(4) The reconstruction of the bridge over the Melli Khola in Darjeeling, which was washed away in July 1927.

Special repairs to the roads in Darjeeling Division were practically completed. Special repairs to the roads and bridges in the Duars were also carried out, some being completed while others were in progress at the close of the year.

Arboricultural operations in some of the roads in the Duars were carried out as far as funds permitted.

Civil Aviation.

331. The improvement of the Aviation Ground at Dum-Dum by raising it and providing necessary drainage arrangements was completed during the year. Certain minor works in connection with the ground were also in progress at the close of the year.

Military.

332. The metalling of the approach road to the Landing Ground at Asansol, was taken up and completed during the year. Work on the preparation of the Landing Ground at Dacca was almost completed.

Contribution work.

333. The construction of roadways and footpaths on the Railway Bridge at Bally was in progress.

Railways.

334. All the important lines of railway in this province are under the direct control of the Government of India. The following light railways are to some extent under the control of this Government:— Administration.

		Gauge.	Length in miles.
1.	Darjeeling Himalayan Railway	2′ 0″	51·07
2.	Bengal Provincial Railway (Tarkeswar to Tribeni)	2′ 6″	33·27
3.	Howrah Amta Light Railway	2′ 0″	43·87
4.	Howrah Sheakhalla Light Railway	2′ 0″	19·75
5.	Baraset Basirhat Light Railway	2′ 6″	52·24
	Total ..		200·20

335. The following lines were opened to traffic during the year:— Lines opened.

(1) The Chittagong Hathazari Section, a length of 14·23 miles, of the Chittagong-Nazirhat Branch of the Assam-Bengal Railway was opened to the public carriage of passengers early in December 1929. The remaining section of the line from Hathazari to Nazirhat, a length of 8·74 miles was opened for passenger traffic on the 17th March 1930. This line passes through a very fertile and densely populated rice-growing country. It is a suburban line for the Port of Chittagong and serves several local markets and tea gardens. It terminates on the river Halda which is an important waterway serving the interior. Chittagong-Nazirhat Railway.

(2) The Feni-Belonia Branch of the Assam-Bengal Railway, a length of 16·88 miles, was opened to the public carriage of passengers early in December 1929. The line serves a very fertile and densely populated district and several local markets. Its terminus Belonia is on the boundary of the Tripura state. Feni-Belonia Railway.

(3) The second section of the Abdulpur-Nawabganj Railway from Rajshahi to Chapai-Nawabganj, a length of 31·46 miles was opened to passenger traffic on the 11th February 1930. The railway opens up the important district of Rajshahi and improves the railway communications of Malda and Purnea districts with Abdulpur-Nawabganj Railway.

Calcutta. At the same time it eases the flow of traffic on the metre gauge section of the Eastern Bengal Railway from Katihar to Parbatipur.

Teesta-Kurigram Railway.

(4) The Teesta-Kurigram Branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway which was converted from 2′ 6″ gauge to metre gauge in 1928 was extended by a further 1·48 miles of metre gauge railway in order to bring the terminus nearer to the centre of the town of Kurigram.

Netrokona-Mohanganj Railway.

(5) The second section of the Netrakona-Mohanganj Railway from Thakurkona to Mohanganj a length of 10·75 miles was opened to passenger traffic on the 1st of April 1929. It runs through thickly populated jute producing country.

Mileage.

336. With these additions, the total mileage of railways on 31st March 1930 was 3,411·63 miles.

Surveys.

337. The following surveys were sanctioned by the Railway Board during the year:—

(1) A reconnaissance survey by the Eastern Bengal Railway administration for a Brahmaputra ferry crossing in the vicinity of Serajganj or Bera.

(2) A reconnaissance and a traffic survey by the Eastern Bengal Railway administration for a line of railway from a point near mile 35 on the Kalukhali Bhatiapara Railway to Syndia Ghat, a distance of about 20 miles.

(3) A final location survey by the Eastern Bengal Railway administration of a line of railway from mile 5B to Majerhat station (Kalighat Majerhat Realignment Railway Survey), a distance of about 2½ miles.

New construction.

338. Owing to financial reasons the Railway Board were obliged to make a heavy cut in their grant for new construction. The construction of the Contai Road Contai Railway (Bengal-Nagpur Railway project) was postponed till 1931-32. The construction of the bridge over the Megna river at Bhairab Bazar (a project of the Assam-Bengal Railway) was also kept in abeyance. The work on the Calcutta Chord Railway, including the Bally Bridge was however pushed on during the year 1929-30, and all the piers of the bridge were completed and girder erection begun. The approaches to the bridge on either side are in an advanced state of progress and it is anticipated that the line will be ready for opening in May 1931.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

Canals (Irrigation and Navigation).

339. An informal separation took place in the internal administration of the department, the Chief Engineer's office being separated from that of the Secretariat. A temporary sub-division was opened at Tamluk for the construction of the Soadighi-Gangakhali scheme, but as the scheme could not be carried out on account of financial stringency it was abolished later. Constitution of the Department.

340. The transactions of the department for the year are shown in the following statement, in so far as they relate to Irrigation and Navigation works:— Capital and Revenue Accounts.

Capital Account.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1929-30.	Expenditure to end of 1929-30.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1930.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
WORKS FOR WHICH CAPITAL AND REVENUE ACCOUNTS ARE KEPT.				
A.—Irrigation Works.				
(1) Productive—				
Direct	80,51,475	20,36,501	44,24,783	36,26,692
Indirect	2,54,102	31,035	62,488	1,91,614
Total ..	83,05,577	20,67,536	44,87,271	38,18,306
(2) Unproductive—				
Direct	83,06,728	..	83,06,728	....
Indirect	1,85,325	..	1,85,325	....
Total ..	84,92,053	..	84,92,053	....
B—Navigation Works.				
Productive—				
Direct	2,49,49,000	—410	13,90,718	2,35,58,282
Indirect	5,26,000	25	46,254	4,79,746
Total ..	2,54,75,000	—385	14,36,972	2,40,38,028
Unproductive—				
Direct	3,27,02,125	1,78,490	3,18,84,742	8,17,383
Indirect	3,71,395	1,979	5,70,202	—1,98,807
Total ..	3,30,73,520	1,80,469	3,24,54,944	6,18,576
Total works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept ..	7,53,46,150	22,47,620	4 68,71,240	2,84,74,910

Revenue Account.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working expenses.			Net Revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
WORKS FOR WHICH BOTH CAPITAL AND REVENUE ACCOUNTS ARE KEPT.					
A—Irrigation Works.					
Unproductive ..	2,30,927	2,34 805	935	2,35,740	—4,813
B—Navigation.					
Unproductive ..	9,21,038	14,89,655	10,210	14,99,865	—5,78,827
Total ..	11,51 965	17,24,460	11,145	17,35,605	—5,83,640

Irrigation.

341. The following statement shows the areas irrigated during the year as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1929:—

	Midnapore.			Eden Canal.		
	Kharif including hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.	Kharif including hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the triennium ending March 1929 ..	70,884	727	71,611	21,704	360	22,064
For 1929-30 ..	59,605	..	59,605	21,693	426	22,119

342. The following statement shows the lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year:—

	Midnapore Canal.	Eden Canal.
	Miles.	Miles.
Main Canal, Irrigation	53·00	27·5
Branch Canals	16·75	..
Distributaries including minor and village channels	254·54	17·6
Navigation channels	69·75	..

343. The following statement shows the traffic on the navigable canals during 1929-30 as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1929.

		Midnapore Canal.		Hijili Tidal Canal.		Calcutta and Eastern Canals.	
		Average of triennium ending March 1929.	For the year 1929-30.	Average of triennium ending March 1929.	For the year 1929-30.	Average of triennium ending March 1929.	For the year 1929-30.
Length of open canals	Miles	69¾	69¾	49¾	49¾	834	834
Receipts	Rs.	46,141	35,456	57,115	62,719	4,35,089	3,95,531
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement	Tons	260,034	223,140	143,674	153,476	1,121,374	921,020
Estimated weight of cargo	Tons	29,509	27,650	37,587	41,147	708,929	669,207
Estimated value of goods	Rs.	46,37,360	39,16,241	54,79,690	56,55,840	6,27,61,880	5,63,30,327
Estimated value of rafts	Rs.	9,569	24,687	613	535	22,18,841	43,90,984

		Sunderbans Steamer Route.		Madaripore Bil Route.		Orissa Coast Canal.	
		Average of triennium ending March 1929.	For the year 1929-30.	Average of triennium ending March 1929.	For the year 1929-30.	Average of triennium ending March 1929.	For the year 1929-30.
Length of open canals	Miles	350	350	38	38	54¼	54¼
Receipts	Rs.	6,46,18	74,978	3,18,687	3,31,408	17,815	29,271
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement	Tons	24,014.441	....	1,419,627	845,655	97,718	37,780
Estimated weight of cargo	Tons	....	....	1,146,323	1,151,479	30,399	32,741
Estimated value of goods	Rs.	....	....	15,50,40,377	15,44,42,158	36,36,419	38,65,630
Estimated value of rafts	Rs.	....	....	14,038	19,060	542	5,840

Embankment and Drainage Works.

Expenditure.

344. The expenditure on embankments and drainage works including charges for "Establishment and tools and plant" was Rs. 11,52,118 against Rs. 12,56,603 in the previous year.

Lengths of embankments.

345. There were no additions in the length of public embankments maintained by this department. The policy of gradually abandoning those protective embankments which by experience have been found to be injurious to the country by obstructing the free discharge of flood water and consequent prolongation of floods was continued, and a length of 8 miles and 1,775 feet of embankments was abandoned during the year. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained during the year was 1,290 miles and 461 feet.

Works carried out under—(a) Bengal Drainage Act VI of 1880.

346. The Rajapur, Burrojolla, Howrah and Dancooni drainage works were maintained at a cost of Rs. 21,111 against Rs. 19,650 in the previous year. The maintenance and repairs of the works in connection with the drainage of Berhampore town and Bistoopur bil cost Rs. 2,112 against Rs. 1,625 in the previous year.

(b) Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VIII of 1895.

347. The Magrahat Drainage Scheme, which was carried out under the Sanitary Drainage Act, was maintained at a cost of Rs. 34,934 against Rs. 30,245 in the previous year.

348. The transactions of the year are briefly described in the following summary which is divided for convenience into circles of superintendence.

South-Western Circle.

Major Irrigation Works (Unproductive).

Midnapore canal

349. No capital expenditure was incurred on the canal during the year.

The total capital outlay (direct) to the end of the year was Rs. 83,06,728.

Rainfall.

350. The rainfall at Midnapore was 73·36 inches compared with 78·08 inches of the previous year.

Irrigation.

351. The area irrigated from the canal was 59,605 acres against 64,842 in 1928-29. The cash realisation on account of water-rates was Rs. 1,66,687 of which Rs. 2,258 were remitted, against Rs. 1,82,163 realised and Rs. 2,134 remitted in the preceding year. The total demand for water-rates including arrears

was Rs. 1,84,951 against Rs. 1,90,092. The decrease in the demand is due to the fact that some of the leases which lapsed were not renewed during the year owing to copious rainfall.

352. The navigation receipts amounted to Rs. 34,731 against Rs. 37,995 in 1928-29. Navigation.

353. The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 2,30,927 and Rs. 2,35,740 against Rs. 2,48,334 and Rs. 1,94,929 respectively in the previous year. The net revenue of the year was Rs. (—)4,813 against Rs. 53,405 in the preceding year. Financial results.

Minor Irrigation Works.

354. The area irrigated from the canal during the year was 22,383 acres as compared with 21,353 acres of the preceding year. The gross revenue derived was Rs. 45,530 against Rs. 44,091, and the working expenses amounted to Rs. 45,902 against Rs. 44,284 in the previous year. Eden canal.

355. The weir which was complete in 1927-28, was maintained at a cost of Rs. 3,430. The irrigable area is 700 acres of which 600 acres were fully irrigated. Amjore weir.

356. The work was constructed on behalf of the Salbund Irrigation Society, Bankura. The irrigable area is about 1,700 Salbund weir.

Other irrigation schemes in Western Bengal.

357. This major irrigation scheme designed to irrigate about 200,000 acres of land, mostly paddy, in the Burdwan and Hooghly districts was under construction during the year. A sum of Rs. 18,80,910 was spent on the construction of weir across the Damodar main canal and branches and on the purchase of special tools and plant. The total expenditure to the end of the year was Rs. 40,80,733 against the estimated cost of Rs. 75,60,879 (direct). It is hoped the canal will be partially opened in 1932. Damodar Canal Scheme.

358. The work in connection with the construction of the Bakreswar Canal in the Birbhum district which was commenced in 1927, was continued. The expenditure during 1929-30 was Rs. 1,55,591 and the total to the end of the year was Rs. 3,44,050 against the estimated cost of Rs. 4,90,596 (direct). The area to be irrigated is 10,000 acres. The Bakreswar Irrigation Scheme.

Projected Canals.

The extension of the Kashianala Irrigation Scheme.

359. A scheme for the extension of the Kashianala Irrigation Scheme was approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 27,716 for irrigating an area of about 1,700 acres of land, but the work was not taken up for want of funds.

Jhargram project.

360. This project has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,88,190 to irrigate an area of about 8,000 acres.

Satkonia Irrigation Scheme.

361. The Satkonia Irrigation scheme, in the district of Burdwan, was approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,40,183 for irrigating an area of about 15,000 acres.

Dowki Supplementary Scheme.

362. An estimate amounting to Rs. 20,487 has been approved for this scheme for irrigating an area of about 3,300 acres.

Major Navigation Work (Unproductive).

Hijili Tidal Canal.

363. There was no capital expenditure on the canal during the year. The total capital outlay (direct) to the end of the year was Rs. 25,50,805. The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 67,668 and Rs. 1,04,286 respectively against Rs. 67,498 and Rs. 47,536 in the preceding year. The result was a deficit of Rs. 36,618 against a net revenue of Rs. 19,962 in 1928-29, due to the canal being closed for heavy silt clearances.

Minor Navigation Works.

Orissa Coast Canal.

364. The length of the canal within the province of Bengal is 54½ miles. It is used for navigation only. The gross revenue and working expenses during the year were Rs. 32,533 and Rs. 23,982 respectively against Rs. 26,838 and Rs. 26,528 in the preceding year. The result was a net revenue of Rs. 8,551 against Rs. 310 in the previous year.

Gaighatta and Buxi khal.

365. The khal is a connecting link between the rivers Rupnarayan and Damodar and is about 7½ miles in length. The khal was leased out for navigation for three years from 1927-28 to 1929-30 at a rental of Rs. 4,110 per annum.

Nadia Rivers.

366. The approximate length of the channels comprising the Nadia Rivers is 478½ miles. The rivers have been thrown open to free navigation from 1st September 1923. The maintenance charges during the year amounted to Rs. 57,132 against Rs. 59,670 in the previous year.

Original works.

367. (*a*) *Protection of the right bank of the river Jamuna at Serajganj.*—The work was undertaken to protect Serajganj town from the attack of the Jamuna and comprises a flexible brick mattress 4,000 feet long, and is partially being met from contributions. The work was started in December 1929, and the total expenditure up to 31st March 1930 was Rs. 1,07,567 against the estimated cost of Rs. 2,61,758.

(*b*) *Extension of the Rajshahi revetment was completed.*—The work was started in August 1928 and the total expenditure up to 31st March 1930 was Rs. 21,272.

Bhagirathi.

368. The river Bhagirathi including the Faracca Channel below Kaliganj is 147 miles in length from its offtake from the river Ganges at Kaliganj to its junction with the Jalangi river at Nadia. The Faracca Channel from Kaliganj to Biswanathpur remained open for country boat traffic up to end of October 1929. Boat traffic above Jiaganj being comparatively small, no bandalling work was done. Local country boat traffic plied up to the end of December. In the middle Bhagirathi bandalling works on the shoals at Lalbagh, Amaniganj and Berhampore were done at a cost of Rs. 4,053. The traffic from Berhampore to Jiaganj was maintained throughout the year. In the lower Bhagirathi shoals were trained by means of bandals, and by such training works, boat traffic was maintained throughout the year between Katwa and Nabadwip. Another shoal in the river Hooghly near Nabadwip was trained this year up to the end of February 1929 and a minimum depth of 5′ was maintained for steamer traffic.

Bhairab river.

369. This river is 65 miles in length from its entrance at Lalgolaghat to Muktearpur where it joins the Jalangi river. The river has three entrances, viz., Lalgolaghat, Ashariadaha and Akriganj. Of these, two entrances, Lalgolaghat and Ashariadaha, were in action during the flood season only and the third, viz., Akriganj entrance, remained open throughout the year. No bandalling work was done in this river.

Mathabhanga river.

370. The Mathabhanga river has its offtake from the Ganges at Dyarampur and falls into the Hooghly at Chakdah. There was no change in the course of the river during the year.

Ganges river from Rajmahal to Goalundo.

371. The training of the Ganges river between Rajmahal and Goalundo was carried out this year by the India General Navigation and Rivers Steam Navigation Company, Limited. There was no stoppage of steamer traffic during the dry season. The total expenditure incurred amounted to Rs. 22,986, against Rs. 22,471 in the previous year.

Discharge observations.

372. Discharge observations were taken at four stations, viz., two on the Bhagirathi, one on the Hooghly and one on the Mathabhanga. The discharges of the tributaries of the Hooghly and Bhagirathi were observed during the flood season only. Discharge of the Bhairab-Jalangi and Mathabhanga rivers were observed at Akriganj and Banskhali.

Gorai river.

373. The Gorai takes off from the Ganges near Kushtia about 12 miles below the Hardinge bridge. The river was surveyed as usual and no substantial change was notified.

Anti-malarial and drainage works.

374. (*a*) *Flushing the Bhairab river in the Meherpur subdivision of the Nadia district.*—The work was started in the year 1926-27 and was opened during the year 1930. The expenditure up to date was Rs. 1,46,102.

(*b*) *Flushing the Gobra Nala in the Murshidabad district.*—The work was started in November 1926 and the total expenditure up to March 1930 was Rs. 2,93,846. The nala was flushed during the flood season.

The Soadighi-Gangakhali project in the district of Midnapore which was approved under the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, VI of 1920, at an estimated cost of Rs. 8,89,042 could not be carried out on account of financial stringency.

Surveys and investigation.

375. During the year under review, investigations were carried out in connection with the proposal for constructing a distributary from the 16th mile of the Eden Canal, for raising and strengthening the Damodar left embankment from the 4th to the 20th mile, for constructing a new sluice at Bardongal and Manialapat in the Sheikpur and Darkeswar embankment, for mitigating the effects of flood in the Ajoy river, and for constructing a channel from the Eden Canal for irrigation of the area lying between Chautpur and Joteram.

In the Bankura Division surveys were in progress in connection with the Dwarkeswar reservoir project, Suvankar-Danra project, and the More, Dolong and Bansloi Irrigation Schemes.

Surveys were also carried out in the Nadia Rivers Division in connection with the North Bengal floods, hydraulic conditions of the Malda district, Harischandrapur flood scheme, the Tangon Valley scheme and the Gazna bil scheme.

River floods and breaches.

376. In the Damodar river there were ten moderate floods during the year, the highest occurring on the 10th August 1929 when the Edilpur gauge read 17·50 against the record flood level of 20·08 during August 1913. The floods not being of great magnitude nor of long duration, were beneficial to the crops on the right bank of the river. In the river Ajoy there were

19 floods, the highest occurring on the 12th October 1929. There were four floods in the river Selye, the intensity and magnitude of which were considerable. The old Cossye river had altogether seven floods, and the Rupnarayan had two high floods during the season.

In the Nadia Rivers Division there were no breaches or damage to property with the exception of the heavy erosion of the Jamuna at Serajganj.

In the Cossye Division the river Rupnarayan attacked the right bank above Tumlook and a retired line had to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 13,076. There were several small breaches in this Division.

There were as many as 21 breaches in the Damodar Division due to the high floods in the Cossye and Selye rivers: the breach at Sujanagar above Ghatal was an extreme one and could not be closed during the monsoon.

Southern Circle.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

377. There was no expenditure during the year on original works. The navigation receipts from the Canal amounted to Rs. 408,703 against Rs. 4,49,762 in the previous year. The gross receipts and working expenses amounted to Rs. 4,47,400 and Rs. 6,31,408 respectively against Rs. 4,80,248 and Rs. 5,52,365 in the previous year. The result being a deficit of Rs. 1,84,008 against a deficit of Rs. 72,117 in 1928-29.

The total expenditure under extensions and improvements during the year was Rs. 2,51,832. The following were the principal items of work on which expenditure was incurred:—

	Rs.
Reconstruction of the Manicktola bridge	51,040
Reconstruction of the Belliaghatta bridge	1,11,241
Reconstruction of the Narkeldanga bridge	75,117

The Manicktolla and Belliaghatta bridges, which are being built by the Calcutta Improvement Trust, were opened during the year under review. The Narkeldanga bridge was under construction.

The Ultadanga bridge being considered unsafe, was kept closed to all except light traffic throughout the year.

Sundarbans Steamer Route.

378. There was no capital expenditure on the route during the year. The cost of maintenance and repairs amounted to Rs. 1,24,048. The gross receipts and working expenses amounted to Rs. 64,750 and Rs. 1,01,868 respectively against Rs. 70,859

and Rs. 2,45,754 in the previous year, the result being a deficit of Rs. 37,118 against Rs. 1,74,895 in 1928-29.

Madaripur Bil Route

379. There was no alteration in the length of the route during the year. The total length between Madhumati and the Urial Khan rivers is 38 miles. For the training works on the Madaripur Bil Route and the Lower Kumar river and for a flood embankment from Jalirpar to Khalia, a sum of Rs. 1,97,862 was spent during the year; the total expenditure to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 6,19,645.

The gross receipts and working expenses amounted to Rs. 3,41,220 and Rs. 5,37,192 respectively against Rs. 3,09,867 and Rs. 4,37,057 in the previous year, the result being a deficit of Rs. 1,95,972 against a deficit of Rs. 1,27,190 in 1928-29.

River Training works.

380. Bandalling works were carried out as usual, to train shoals in the rivers Dhaleswari and Buriganga with the object of maintaining a navigable depth of water during the low water season and also for the purpose of supplying good drinking water to the city of Dacca. The bandalling works were carried out by the Steamer Companies on an annual subsidy of Rs. 17,500. Some shoals were also dredged by them at a cost of Rs. 8,806, half of which was paid by Government.

As a result of bandalling work in the Navaganga, the river was kept navigable for boat traffic throughout the year. But steamer traffic had to be stopped in the upper reaches from the third week of December to the end of the year.

Dredging work.

381. Dredging of shoals was done in the Lower Kumar and Attrabanka rivers by the dredgers "Foyers" and "Alexandra." The dredger "Ronaldshay" has been engaged by the Government of India in the Andamans for the reclamation of unhealthy malarial swamps fringing the Bay.

Sanitary and Drainage works.

382. A khal was excavated at a cost of Rs. 3,881 to connect the Arool Bil with the Bookbhara bills, thus completing this work.

Agricultural works.

383. The Dhutkhali sluice was completed during the year.

Surveys and investigations.

384. Surveys and investigations in connection with the following schemes were undertaken and the amount noted against each was spent during the year:—

	Rs.
Datbhanga and other bills	153
Pabla bils	103
Bhutiar Bil	624
Chak Teleghati	798
Narnia Bil	471
Noakhali Khal	1,998
Bagoonbari Khal	971
Ghooni and Jatragachi bils	700

River floods and breaches.

385. The rainfall was abnormal in the district of Tippera. There was a heavy flood in the river Gumti in June and the embankment breached in two places. The breaches were closed by means of ring bunds. The rainfall in other parts of the circle was normal and no damage to crops occurred.

General.

386. An Irrigation Committee was formed in November 1929 with Mr. W. S. Hopkyns, C.I.E., I.C.S., of Bengal, as Chairman, Mr. D. G. Harris, C.I.E., Consulting Engineer to the Government of India, and Mr. J. B. G. Smith, C.I.E., Chief Engineer, Punjab, Members, to examine the work of the Irrigation Department of Bengal in respect of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankments and Drainage, and to advise Government on the desirability of creating a separate Department for Navigation or of a Provincial Waterways Board for the conservancy of the navigable rivers in the Province. The Committee made extensive tours over the major waterways and in March 1930 submitted their report to Government recommending the creation of a Waterways Trust. The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of Government.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

387. The total revenue for the year 1929-30 from central heads amounted to Rs. 6,58,53,000 against Rs. 6,52,59,000 of the previous year resulting in a net increase of Rs. 5,94,000, the details of which are shown in the statement below:—

Major heads.	Actuals, 1928-29.	Actuals, 1929-30.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
II.—Taxes on income ..	6,14,22,247	6,17,68,207	3,45,960	....
III.—Salt	1,88,023	1,60,640	....	27,383
X.—Tributes from Indian States ..	67,701	67,701	....	....
XVI.—Interest	10,55,699	10,36,402	....	19,297
XX.—Ports and Pilotage ..	20,41,253	21,15,249	73,996	....
XXVI.—Miscellaneous Departments ..	96,563	1,07,932	11,369	....
XXVII.—Currency ..	14,838	17,371	2,533	....
XXX.—Civil Works ..	1,41,156	3,67,352	2,26,196	....
XXXIII.—Receipts in aid of supernnuation ..	2,06,356	2,02,712	....	3,644
XXXV.—Miscellaneous ..	25,284	9,758	....	15,526
Total ..	6,52,59,120	6,58,53,324	6,60,054	65,850

Statement of Imperial Revenue and Finance—Receipts.

The causes of the principal variations under the major heads are explained below:—

Taxes on income.—Larger collections of arrear demands of previous years under "Super tax" account for the increase.

Salt.—Reduction in consumption mainly accounts for the decrease in revenue under this head.

Interest.—The decrease is mainly due to the gradual repayment of loan for the Kidderpore Dock Works.

Ports and pilotage.—The increase is chiefly due to larger collections on account of "Pilotage receipts" owing to the larger number of vessels which visited the port during the year under review.

Civil works.—Recovery of rents from the Commercial Departments of the Government of India, the principal contributors being the Mint and the Central Publication Branch, with effect from the year 1929-30, is the cause of the rise of revenue under this head.

Miscellaneous.—The decrease is due partly to smaller credits under "Unclaimed deposits" and "Miscellaneous receipts," and partly to a change in classification according to which receipts on account of the Government Art School and Art Section of the Indian Museum are now being adjusted by deduction from expenditure under the major head "30.—Scientific Departments" instead of being treated as direct receipts under this head as in the previous year.

Central Expenditure.

388. The total expenditure under the central heads amounted to Rs. 1,13,82,000 during the year under review against Rs. 1,09,36,000 in the previous year. The net increase was therefore Rs. 4,46,000 distributed among the several major heads as shown in the statement below:—

Major heads.	Actuals, 1928-29.	Actuals, 1929-30.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
2.—Taxes on income ..	10,48,383	10,92,455	44,072	....
3.—Salt	2,24,285	2,23,796	....	489
19.—Interest on ordinary debt	16,69,003	17,28,031	59,028	....
20.—Interest on other obligations	18,77,300	21,05,343	2,28,043	....
22.—General Administration—Civil Secretariat and Headquarters establishment ..	42,682	30,371	....	12,311
23.—Audit	8,48,220	8,97,330	49,110	....
24.—Administration of Justice ..	39,388	38,331	....	1,057
26.—Police	85,010	95,930	10,920	....
27.—Ports and Pilotage ..	15,39,613	15,89,960	50,347	....
28.—Ecclesiastical ..	1,81,986	1,87,308	5,322	....
29.—Political	47,315	48,060	745	....
30.—Scientific departments ..	7,455	....	....	7,455
33.—Public health	56,755	88,026	31,271	....
37.—Miscellaneous departments	63,585	63,077	....	508
41.—Civil Works ..	11,09,561	9,98,756	....	1,10,805
44.—Territorial and Political pensions	6,24,267	6,47,115	22,848	....
45. Superannuation allowances and pensions ..	14,62,912	14,96,001	33,089	....
46. Stationery and Printing ..	2,103	2,200	97	....
47.—Miscellaneous ..	5,858	49,584	43,726	....
51A.—Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments	....	....	....	....
Total ..	1,09,35,681	1,13,81,674	5,78,618	1,32,625

The main fluctuations are explained below:—

Taxes on income.—The increased expenditure was due chiefly to increase of staff.

Interest on ordinary debt.—The increase was mainly due to larger payments of interest on 5 per cent. loans of 1945-55, 1939-44, 3½ per cent. loans of 1900-01, 4½ per cent. loan of 1934 and 1955-60 and 6 per cent. bonds of 1932, partly counterbalanced by smaller payments of interest and premium on 5½ per cent. War Bonds of 1928.

Interest on other obligations.—Larger payments of interest on General Provident Fund and on Provincial balances mainly accounts for the increase under this head.

General administration—Secretariat and Headquarters establishment.—Owing to the centralisation of the administration of shipping and navigation, less agency work was done in the Local Government Secretariat and so the payment made by the Central Government was reduced.

Audit.—The increase was partly due to normal increments and partly to larger expenditure for temporary staff employed during the year.

Police.—The increase represents the cost of revision of pay of the police force for the whole year under review against only four months of the previous year.

Ports and pilotage.—Special repairs to the pilot vessel "Lady Fraser" and the entertainment of a Ship Surveyor mainly account for the increase.

Scientific departments.—The absence of any expenditure during 1929-30 is due to a change in classification of expenditure on account of "Government Art Gallery and Art Section of the Indian Museum" as explained under "Miscellaneous" on the receipt side.

Public health.—The increase is due chiefly to (*i*) the installation of a disinfecting apparatus at King George's Dock, Kidderpore, and (*ii*) expenditure for Chittagong Port Health Department for 1928-29 having been debited in the accounts of 1929-30.

Civil works.—Smaller expenditure on repairs to Sikkim roads mainly accounts for the reduction.

Territorial and political pensions.—The increase is mainly due to enhanced pensions granted to certain grandsons of the late King of Oudh.

Superannuation allowances and pension.—Normal growth in the superannuation and retired allowance accounts for the increase.

Miscellaneous.—Expenditure on account of the Banking Enquiry Committee mainly accounts for the increase.

Salt.

[Salt Administration Report, 1929-30.]

Salt credit system.

389. The number of salt dealers who availed themselves of the credit system of payment of duty on salt rose from 49 to 51. The amount of duty outstanding for adjustment at the end of the year was Rs. 85,41,964 as against Rs. 71,78,886 at the close of the previous year.

Imports.

390. The total quantity of salt imported into Bengal was 16,246,737 maunds as compared with 15,037,366 maunds in the previous year, showing an increase of 8·04 per cent. Of these, the imports into Calcutta and Chittagong were 1,48,06,189 and 1,440,548 maunds respectively during the year, representing 91·13 and 8·87 per cent. of the total quantity imported, against 87·78 and 12·22 per cent. in the previous year.

Consumption and prices.

391. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption from Calcutta and Chittagong during the year was 15,466,037 maunds against 14,199,123 maunds in the previous year. The average wholesale price per maund inclusive of duty was 2 annas 11 pies less than in the previous year. The average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds in Calcutta was Rs. 83 against Rs. 97 in the previous year, while that of Port Said Salt in Chittagong was Rs. 81 against Rs. 102.

Income-tax.

392. Trade in the year 1928-29, on the income of which the assessments for the year under review were made, was better than in the preceding year. Jute, which is the chief source of revenue in Bengal, had another good year. The profits of the

Indian jute mills in 1928 totalled 7·23 crores against 6·67 in 1927. Engineering and shipping showed improvement. Coal and lac were steady. On the other hand tea was bad owing to over-production and competition from Java. The piecegoods market continued to show a downward tendency owing to variations in price. Sugar had also a bad year. Grains and pulses exported were the lowest of the last 5 years on account of fall in the export of rice, while hides and skins did not do well. Banking did not do as well as last year.

The statement below shows the figures of assessed income of the year 1929-30 as compared with those of the previous year:—

	Rs.
Standard figure of assessed income for the year 1920-21 (revised up to March 1930)	62,38,78,380
Assessed income in—	
1921-22	(Not available.)
1922-23	47,53,18,672
1923-24	49,21,45,843
1924-25	46,65,74,333
1925-26	50,63,56,689
1926-27	49,40,92,344
1927-28	45,84,67,020
1928-29	53,82,19,707
1929-30	55,65,11,258

As in the previous years Bengal did not benefit by Devolution Rule 15.

In 1929-30 the collection of income-tax was Rs. 3,47,48,779 and of super-tax Rs. 2,54,05,492 as compared with Rs. 3,40,25,308 and Rs. 2,48,65,604 respectively in 1928-29. Other statistics will be found in the returns submitted by the Commissioner of Income-tax, Bengal, to the Central Board of Revenue.

B.—Revenue and Finance other than Central—Provincial Finance.

Statement of Provincial Receipts—Actuals.

393. The total Provincial revenue for the year under review, excluding the receipts on capital account, amounted to Rs. 11,35,41,000 against Rs. 10,98,67,000 of the previous year, resulting in a net increase of Rs. 36,74,000 as shown in the detailed

statement below. Including the receipts on capital account however, the total collection was Rs. 11,77,56,000 against Rs. 11,69,54,000 during 1928-29 indicating a rise of Rs. 8,02,000 only.

Receipts.

Major heads.	Actuals, 1928-29.	Actuals, 1929-30.
	Rs.	Rs.
V.—Land revenue	3,26,76,133	3,24,74,141
VI.—Excise	2,24,90,968	2,26,24,989
VII.—Stamps	3,54,87,680	3,91,96,599
VIII.—Forest	31,18,357	30,52,078
IX.—Registration	39,94,240	31,69,133
IXA.—Scheduled taxes	16,98,643	16,29,123
XII.—Subsidised Companies ..	1,02,413	1,19,062
XIII.—Irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works for which capital accounts are kept	−3,74,235	−5,64,753
XIV.—Irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works for which no capital accounts are kept ..	2,54,982	2,99,886
XVI.—Interest	6,23,825	6,21,621
XVII.—Administration of justice ..	17,98,455	18,14,024
XVIII.—Jails and convict settlements ..	10,46,948	10,46,225
XIX.—Police	10,38,183	12,45,361
XX.—Ports and pilotage	60,218	58,711
XXI.—Education	14,14,819	14,11,421
XXII.—Medical	8,91,326	11,76,683
XXIII.—Public health	1,75,171	1,81,629
XXIV.—Agriculture	5,80,803	6,08,498
XXV.—Industries	7,02,203	6,67,237
XXVI.—Miscellaneous departments ..	27,383	23,057
XXX.—Civil works	5,53,745	5,12,558
XXXII.—Transfers from Famine Relief Fund	89,000	50,000
XXXIII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation ..	2,17,583	1,11,029
XXXIV.—Stationery and printing ..	1,55,903	5,44,971
XXXV.—Miscellaneous	8,27,580	9,55,528
XXXIXA.—Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments	....	....
Receipts in England ..	1,65,878	5,587
XL.—Extraordinary receipts ..	48,938	5,06,250
Total	10,98,67,142	11,35,40,648
Famine Relief Fund	48,000	56,000
Depreciation Fund for Government presses ..	1,90,000	1,38,000
Advances from the Provincial Loans Fund ..	32,25,000	16,00,000
Loans and advances by the Bengal Government	27,24,000	11,28,000
Suspense account	9,00,000	6,17,000
Appropriations for reduction or avoidance of debts	....	6,76,000
Total ..	11,69,54,142	11,77,55,648

The principal variations in the receipts under the several major heads for the year 1929-30 as compared with those of 1928-29, are explained below:—

Land revenue.—The decrease is mainly due to the fall in receipts under "Fixed collections" and "Miscellaneous" partly counterbalanced by larger receipts under "Recoveries of survey and settlement charges."

Excise.—The increase is mainly due to larger collection of licence fees for pachwai shops and malt liquor, partly counterbalanced by smaller receipts on account of duty on country spirit and duty and licence fees on foreign liquors other than beers, medicated wines and commercial spirits.

Stamps.—The very large increase under this head is mainly due to a special receipt of Rs. 52,08,000 on account of probate duty on a rich estate.

Forest.—The fall in revenue was due to smaller demand for timber removed by consumers or purchasers. The fall would have been larger but for increased collection on account of timber removed by Government agency.

Registration.—The drop in the receipts under this head was due to a decrease in the number of documents presented for registration, the fall occurring mainly in the registration of sales, mortgages and leases.

Scheduled taxes.—Smaller collections from entertainment and betting taxes led to the decrease under this head.

Irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works for which capital accounts are kept.—The decrease is mainly due to larger expenditure on working expenses on account of "Midnapore Canal," "dredger Ronaldshay," "Hijli Tidal Canal," "Calcutta and Eastern Canals" and the "Madaripur Bhil Route" which are taken in reduction of receipts under this head.

Irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works for which no capital accounts are kept.—Larger collections from Amjore Division and additional revenue as a result of the construction of a spill from the Bidyadhari river account for the increase under this head.

Police.—The increase occurred under "Presidency Police" on account of police supplied to private persons and recoveries from the Port Commissioners, Calcutta; the recoveries under "Police supplied to non-Government railways and Public Departments, etc.," which were hitherto adjusted under the "General Police Fund," were credited under this head in 1929-30 and this also contributed towards the increase.

Medical.—The increase was due to readjustment by credit to this head of leave salaries of officers earning leave during service under other Governments originally wrongly debited to Bengal books and also to larger hospital receipts and contributions.

Agriculture.—The increase was mainly due to larger collection on account of experimental cultivation and co-operative credit audit fees, the increase would have been larger but for a fall in veterinary receipts.

Industries.—Smaller receipts from the sale of sulphate of quinine and smaller recoveries from the Government of India on account of extraction of quinine from Java barks mainly account for the decrease.

Civil works.—The decrease was mainly due to larger refunds sanctioned during the year.

Receipts in aid of superannuation.—The actuals for 1928-29 included recoveries of actual pensionary charges from the Government of Bihar and Orissa, Madras and Burma for the period from the 1st December 1927 to the 31st March 1928. The conventional year from December to November was substituted for the financial year for the purpose of effecting such recoveries and accordingly no arrear recovery appeared in the accounts for 1929-30, the entire amount of recovery having been adjusted in reduction of expenditure, which mainly account for the decrease in revenue under this head.

Stationery and printing.—The increase was chiefly due to credits on account of sale of plain paper appearing under this head instead of under "Stamps" as in the previous year.

Miscellaneous.—The increase is mainly due to the readjustment by credit to this head of the leave salaries of officers earning leave during service under other Governments originally wrongly debited to Bengal books.

Extraordinary receipts.—The increase was due to the credit of the sale proceeds of certain lands and buildings purchased by the Calcutta Improvement Trust in connection with the widening of the Strand Road.

Advances from the Provincial Loans Fund.—The decrease is due to smaller borrowing from the Provincial Loans Fund for financing capital expenditure.

Loans and advances by the Bengal Government.—The decrease in receipt compared with those in the previous year is mainly due to the repayment in full during 1928-29 of the Chittagong Port loan of Rs. 15,00,000, on the declaration of Chittagong as a major port.

Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debts.—The decision of Government that from 1929-30 all repayments of loans taken from the Provincial Loans Fund should be treated as a charge against the current annual revenues and therefore provision should be made under the service head "21.—Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt" as well as on the receipt side of the deposit head "Deposit and advances not bearing interest—Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt—Other appropriations" accounts for the receipt under this head.

Statement of Provincial Expenditure—Actuals.

394. The total provincial expenditure for the year under review was Rs. 11,32,36,000 excluding the expenditure on capital account, against Rs. 10,90,61,000 during the previous year indicating a net increase of Rs. 41,75,000 under the several major heads as shown in the statement below. The total capital expenditure amounted to Rs. 72,88,000 against Rs. 75,48,000 in 1928-29.

Expenditure.

Major heads.	Actuals, 1928-29.	Actuals, 1929-30.
	Rs.	Rs.
5.—Land revenue	46,72,970	45,09,558
6.—Excise	22,93,289	22,25,978
7.—Stamps	8,99,929	6,22,448
8.—Forest	15,77,941	15,08,946
8A.—Forest capital outlay charged to revenue ..	1,04,252	1,16,685
9.—Registration	20,24,754	22,12,653
9A.—Scheduled taxes	15,000	15,000
14.—Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept	18,53,706	18,23,008
15.—Other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenues	15,59,470	13,79,986
15(1).—Other revenue expenditure financed from Famine Relief grant	....	1,000
16.—Construction of irrigation, navigation and drainage works—Financed from ordinary revenues	2,80,933	2,41,602
19.—Interest on ordinary debt	−7,92,662	−8,08,043
20.—Interest on other obligations ..	782	8,463
21.—Reduction or avoidance of debt ..	....	6,78,862
22.—General Administration	1,20,56,151	1,24,26,600
24.—Administration of justice	1,06,46,003	1,07,01,953
25.—Jails and convict settlements ..	32,75,460	34,45,390
26.—Police	1,95,89,350	2,08,60,155
27.—Ports and pilotage	5,96,089	5,04,915
30.—Scientific departments	26,560	26,599
31.—Education	1,40,27,042	1,43,65,019
32.—Medical	55,03,335	55,67,654
33.—Public health	33,48,314	35,45,666
34.—Agriculture	25,14,122	25,31,737
35.—Industries	12,04,237	12,36,264

Expenditure—concld.

Major heads.	Actuals, 1928-29.	Actuals, 1928-29.
	Rs.	Rs.
37.—Miscellaneous departments ..	2,03,214	2,39,849
41.—Civil works	97,31,993	94,47,518
43.—Famine relief	3,97,085	40,712
45.—Superannuation allowances and pensions ..	44,59,641	44,95,997
45A.—Communtation of pensions financed from ordinary revenue	8,76,486	26,37,339
46.—Stationery and printing	20,49,938	23,21,779
47.—Miscellaneous	2,75,584	2,44,507
Expenditure in England	37,90,141	40,59,853
Total ..	10,90,61,109	11,32,35,652
52A.—Forest capital outlay not charged to revenue	....	....
55.—Construction of irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works not charged to revenue	14,85,741	19,82,317
61.—Civil works not charged to revenue ..	12,52,242	25,29,217
60B.—Payment of cummuted value of pensions	....	7,11,347
Famine Relief Fund	89,000	50,000
Depreciation Fund for Government presses ..	35,000	....
Repayment to the Government of India of advance from Provincial Loans Fund ..	21,24,000	6,78,862
Suspense	8,06,000	....
Loans and advances by the Bengal Government ..	17,56,000	13,36,749
Total ..	11,66,09,092	12,05,24,144

The principal variations under the several major heads as shown in the above statement are explained below:—

Land revenue.—Smaller expenditure was incurred on account of "Job works" under "Major settlement operations" and under "Other charges" subordinate to "Minor settlement operations" account for the decrease.

Excise.—Purchase of a smaller quantity of opium from the Gazipur Factory mainly accounts for the decrease.

Stamps.—The decrease was partly due to smaller payment of discount to vendors owing to the decline in the sale of stamps and partly to the adjustment of charges on account of the purchase of plain paper to be used with stamps under the head "46—Stationery and printing" from 1929-30 instead of under this head as hitherto.

Forest.—The decrease was mainly due to smaller expenditure on "Conservancy, maintenance and regeneration."

Registration.—The increased expenditure is due to the additional establishment and contingent expenditure in the registration offices incurred in connection with the work of transmission

of landlords' fees arising out of the amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept.—The decrease is mainly due to the debit of the interest charges on the Damodar Canal as direct charges to the capital expenditure under the head "55.—Construction of irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works not charged to Revenue" during the period of its construction; the decrease would have been larger but for increased interest charges paid owing to increased capital expenditure and also to enhanced rate of interest.

Other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue.—Smaller expenditure incurred on Salband Weir and Takavi Embankments accounts for the decrease.

Construction of irrigation, navigation and drainage works, financed from ordinary revenues.—The decrease was due mainly to smaller capital expenditure on the Madaripur Bhil Route.

Reduction or avoidance of debts.—This head was introduced from 1929-30 as already explained in the receipts side of the provincial finance.

General administration.—The increase was mainly due to larger expenditure on account of elections for Indian and Provincial Legislatures and entertainment of staff in connection with transmission of landlords' fees. The increase would have been larger but for savings effected owing to there being no Ministers for part of the year.

Administration of justice.—Larger expenditure incurred on account of fees to pleaders in criminal cases mainly accounts for the increase.

Jails and convict settlements.—Revision of the pay of the Warder establishment, larger expenditure for the purchase of raw materials and increased stock of articles supplied for sale, led to the increase under this head.

Police.—The increase was mainly due to the reflection in the actuals of 1929-30 of the fuller effect of the general revision of pay of the subordinate police staff sanctioned from 1st November 1928. smaller expenditure under Criminal Investigation Department, Railway Police and Superintendence however partly counterbalanced this increase.

Ports and pilotage.—Smaller expenditure incurred on account of building, repairs, etc., of the pooled launches and for the purchase of marine stores, account of the decrease under this head.

Education.—The increase was mainly due to larger payment of non-recurring grants to the Dacca University and to non-Government secondary schools.

Medical.—The small increase was due to payments of larger grants for medical purposes.

Public health.—The increase was chiefly due to larger grants for water-works and increased expenditure for Bacteriological Laboratories.

Agriculture.—The slight increase was mainly due to the expansion of the activities of the Co-operative Credit Department.

Industries.—Larger payment of grants-in-aid for industrial education accounts for the increase.

Miscellaneous departments.—Increased expenditure owing to the filling up of vacancies in the cadre of Factory Inspectors and the absence of any recoveries from the Assam Government on account of services rendered by the Bengal Inspectors of Factories, led to the increase under this head.

Civil works.—Smaller expenditure on the construction of roads mainly accounts for the decrease.

Famine relief.—The decrease was due to smaller demands for gratuitous relief.

Superannuation allowances and pensions.—The increase was due to larger payments of superannuation and retired allowances and covenanted Civil Service pensions partly counterbalanced by larger recoveries from the Irrigation Department and other Governments.

Commutation of pensions financed from ordinary revenues.—The very large increase under this head as compared with the expenditure of the previous year is mainly due to larger payments in commuted value of pensions to other local Governments for Bengal pensioners settling down in those provinces after retirement.

Stationery and printing.—The increase was mainly due to the adjustment of the charges for purchase of plain paper to be used with stamps under this head with effect from 1929-30, instead of under "Stamps" as hitherto, and also to larger expenditure on stationery supplied from Central Stores.

Miscellaneous.—The decrease was mainly due to smaller expenditure under "Irrecoverable temporary loans written off" and under "Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges," both very fluctuating heads of expenditure.

Construction of irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works not charged to revenue.—Larger capital expenditure on the construction of the Damodar Canal mainly accounts for the increase under this head.

Civil works not charged to revenue.—The increase in mainly due to larger capital expenditure on the construction of the new Council Chamber and to payments made for the construction of roadways and footpaths over the Bally Bridge.

Expenditure in England.—The increase was due partly to the payment of leave salaries of a larger number of officers of the "General administration," "Police" and "Education" Departments who went on leave during the year under review, and also to increased expenditure under "Superannuation, allowances and pensions" owing to readjustments in the civil accounts of the pensionary charges of military officers for services rendered in civil departments in Bengal.

Stamps.

[Annual Statistics of the Stamps Department for the year 1929-30.]

Revenue and Charges.

395. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 4,00,97,779 during the year showing an increase of Rs. 39,99,079 or 11 per cent. on those of 1928-29. There was increase in receipts under judicial stamps but the revenue from non-judicial stamps declined. The charges during the year were Rs. 15,19,929 against Rs. 17,73,710 of the previous year.

Judicial stamps.

396. The sale proceeds of court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) rose from Rs. 2,16,81,520 in 1928-29 to Rs. 2,82,83,002 in 1929-30. Increases occurred in all districts but three, viz., Bankura, Bakarganj and Rajshahi. The most marked increase was in Calcutta, due mainly to a very large amount of probate duty being realised on account of the estate of the late Sir David Yule deceased.

Non-judicial stamps.

397. The revenue derived from the sale of non-judicial stamps fell from Rs. 1,34,40,746 in 1928-29 to Rs. 1,07,97,688 showing a decrease of Rs. 26,43,058 which was shared by all districts of the province. The principal decreases were shown by Calcutta, and the districts of Midnapore, Dacca, Mymensingh, Bakarganj, Tippera and Noakhali. In Calcutta the decrease under "Impressed labels" was mainly due to a depression of trade, especially in jute, tea and coal and to the fact that mining leases relating to properties in Bihar which formerly used to be stamped in Calcutta were stamped there. The decreases in other districts were mainly

due to the enhanced rate of fees required by the amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act and the consequent falling off in the number of documents registered.

Sale of stamps.

398. The number of vendors holding licenses to sell stamps rose from 5,665 to 5,799, but the amount of discount allowed to them fell from Rs. 4,59,003 to Rs. 3,78,034.

Deficient duty.

399. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by civil courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 fell from 1794 to 1737 but the amount of duty and penalty realised in these cases rose to Rs. 16,791 from Rs. 14,003 in the previous year. The number of cases decided by revenue courts under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act fell from 4,026 to 3,477 with a marked decrease in the amount of duty and penalty realised from Rs. 1,00,734 to Rs. 63,474.

Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.

400. The number of cases instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act increased greatly during the year being 544 against 180 of the previous year. Of the 561 persons brought to trial 546 were convicted, the figures for the previous year being 202 and 178 respectively. The fines imposed rose from Rs. 4,151 to Rs. 5,331 and the rewards paid to informers increased from Rs. 2,947 to Rs. 3,300.

Working of section 19H of the Court Fees Act.

401. Of the cases of valuation of estates for issue of probates and letters of administration reported during 1929-30 including those pending at the beginning of the year 70·8 per cent. were completely enquired into against 69·9 per cent. in the preceding year. The proportion borne by the deficit duty required to the amount originally realised was 23·8 per cent. against 12 per cent. in the previous year.

Excise.

Excise Licensing Boards and Advisory Committee.

402. The Licensing Boards constituted for the municipalities of Calcutta, Howrah, Bally and those in the districts of 24-Parganas, Dacca, Rangpur and Chittagong continued to function in respect of the number and location of shops for the retail sale of excisable articles and opium. The Boards worked satisfactorily and Government acted on their decisions in almost all cases. In areas outside the above districts most of the recommendations of the Local Advisory Committees were accepted.

Revenue.

403. The total excise revenue amounted to Rs. 2,26,47,923 against Rs. 2,25,61,040 showing an increase of Rs. 86,883. The heads which showed an increase were "Receipts from country fermented liquors—Pachwai" (Rs. 3,68,149) due to increased consumption of the articles on account of good harvest of the

winter paddy in the Western Bengal districts in 1928-29, as well as to the fall in the retail price of rice in 1929-30 which governed the scale of taxation on the articles; "Tari tree-tax receipts" (Rs. 32,637) being due to the satisfactory working of the tree-tax system in Hooghly, Howrah, 24-Parganas and Calcutta; "Duty on spirits used for manufacture of medicines and on rectified spirits and absolute alcohol used for medicinal purposes" (Rs. 22,623) and "Total receipts from opium" (Rs. 13,743). Against this there was a decrease of Rs. 2,07,499 under the head "Total receipts from country spirits" and Rs. 68,341 under "Duty on wines and spirits manufactured in India and classed as foreign liquors" and Rs. 53,894 under the head "Total receipts from hemp drugs." The incidence of excise revenue per head of population was 7 annas 8 pies as in the previous year.

Country spirit.

404. The number of shops increased by four whereas the consumption decreased by 8,683 L. P. gallons. Consumption increased in 14 districts and decreased in 12 districts. The decrease in Mymensingh and Tippera was mainly due to the serious floods which visited these districts in June 1929, and the consequent distress. Similarly in Rangpur it was due to depression in trade in hide, tobacco and jute, whereas in Jalpaiguri it was due to depression in tea. In Bankura and part of Murshidabad districts it was due to bad trade in lac. In Calcutta depression in trade, and strike of labour in mills and factories adjoining the suburbs chiefly contributed to the decrease. The increase in the districts where it occurred was nominal except in Chittagong and Midnapore. The increase in Chittagong was mainly due to the development of the town as a major part and also to the opening of seven new shops for the sale of cheap weak liquor in the garden areas of the district in order to suppress illicit distillation by the garden coolies. The increase in Midnapore was due to better economic conditions, as well as suppression of illicit manufacture. Five districts (Hooghly, Howrah, Nadia, Rajshahi, Malda) reported increase in consumption due to a larger number of marriages held amongst the lower classes of people addicted to this liquor, towards the end of the year, in anticipation of the enforcement of the Sarda Marriage Act from 1st April 1930.

Tari.

405. The tree-tax system continued to work satisfactorily in the districts of Hooghly, Howrah, Calcutta and the 24-Parganas. The total number of fermented tari licences decreased from 509 to 503 and the total receipts increased from Rs. 9,75,538 to Rs. 10,15,297.

Pachwai.

406. The total number of pachwai licences issued was 67,387 as compared with 78,618 in 1928-29. The revenue in license fees from "retail vend shops" increased from Rs. 10,47,816 to

Rs. 14,29,240. The increase was marked in Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore, Hooghly, Nadia and Murshidabad and was due to increased consumption of the article on account of good harvest of the winter paddy in 1928-29, as well as to the fall in the retail price of rice in 1929-30, which governed the scale of taxation on the article.

407. The total number of licences issued for "trade" and "public" vend of potable foreign liquor exclusive of licences for the retail sale of medicated wines and commercial spirits, was 1,423 against 1,472. The total receipts from licence fees increased from Rs. 3,24,824 to Rs. 3,42,858. Foreign liquor.

408. The total number of licences issued for the retail sale of ganja was 1,204 against 1,205 in 1928-29. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 49,49,446 against Rs. 49,91,507 in the previous year, the net decrease amounting to Rs. 42,061. The total quantity of ganja consumed amounted to 1,559 maunds against 1,577 maunds in the previous year. The consumption was practically stationary in most of the districts in the Presidency except in the district of Mymensingh where there was an appreciable fall due to unfavourable economic conditions. The total taxation was 77·7 per seer as compared with 77·6 in the previous year. Ganja.

409. The total quantity of bhang consumed amounted to 397 maunds against 390 maunds in the previous year. The total revenue from licence fees and duty amounted to Rs. 1,96,193 as compared with Rs. 1,92,330 in 1928-29 showing an increase of Rs. 3,863. Bhang.

410. The total number of retail licences was 34, the same as in the previous year, and the total revenue amounted to Rs. 2,89,686 as compared with Rs. 3,05,382 in 1928-29 showing a decrease of Rs. 15,696. Charas.

411. The total number of licences issued for the retail sale of opium was 855 as compared with 853 in the previous year. The quantity of opium consumed amounted to 994 maunds as compared with 988 maunds in the previous year. Noticeable increase occurred only in the district of Noakhali due to an extension of the use of licit opium amongst people as a household remedy against certain forms of illness. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 48,21,646 was compared with Rs. 48,07,903 in 1928-29. Thirty-six maunds of contraband opium were seized in Bengal as compared with forty-four and forty maunds in the two previous years. Opium.

412. The total number of licences issued to chemists and druggists for the sale of cocaine was 482 as compared with 454. Eighty-six permits for the possession of cocaine were issued free Cocaine.

to managers of hospitals and dispensaries not under Government supervision and 50 permits were issued to qualified medical practitioners and dentists. The total number of arrests for illicit sale or possession was 425 against 303 in the previous year. In Calcutta and Chittagong 5,650 ounces were seized by Customs officers, 602 ounces by Excise officers, and 62 ounces by Police officers as compared with 1,698 ounces, 318 ounces and 313 ounces, respectively, in the previous year. The total quantity seized in Bengal was 6,315 ounces as compared with 2,349 in the previous year.

Excise offences.

413. The total number of persons prosecuted on charges under the Excise and Opium laws was 6,315 and of persons convicted 5,718 as compared with 5,949 and 5,342, respectively, in the previous year.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for 1919-30.]

Rate.

414. Except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the Cess Act is not in force, the road and public works cesses continued to be levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the valuation of lands and annual net profits of mines and immovable properties.

Demands and collections.

415. The valuation of the gross rental on which the cesses are based amounted to Rs. 15,15,59,583 against the current land revenue demand of Rs. 2,99,74,744. The proportion of land revenue to rental, works out at 19·7 per cent. The total cess demand was Rs. 1,04,01,341. The current demand showed a net increase of Rs. 1,29,299 over that of the preceding year. The increase was mainly contributed by the districts of Khulna, Noakhali, Jalpaiguri, Bogra and Pabna and was due to the cess revaluation operations in those districts. There was, however, a noticeable decrease in the current cess demand in the district of Burdwan. The decrease occurred chiefly under the head "Mines" as most of the collieries owned by Indian companies ceased working and some went into liquidation owing to the depression in the coal industry. The percentage of total collections on the current demand fell to 96·10 against 97·87 in the preceding year. The outstanding balance increased by Rs. 3,53,765 over that of the previous year. The percentage of total collections on current demand exceeded the standard 100 per cent. in the districts of Howrah, Jessore, Faridpur, Chittagong, Rangpur and Malda. The percentage varies from 77·60 to 99·60 in the remaining districts of the Presidency.

Working of the certificate procedure.

416. The total number of certificates filed for the recovery of arrears of cesses was 42,218 against 43,220 in the preceding year showing a decrease of 1,002 cases. Including 14,980 certificates pending from the previous year, the total number of certificates for disposal came to 57,198 of which 39,980 were disposed of, and 17,218 left pending at the close of the year.

Valuation and revaluation.

417. General revaluation operations on a large scale were in progress in the districts of Khulna, Noakhali, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Bogra and Pabna. The revision of assessment of the coal mines in the districts of Burdwan and Birbhum and of certain Gazari forests in Dacca and Mymensingh was made, as usual, under Chapter V of the Cess Act. Partial valuations and revaluations were also undertaken in the districts of Midnapore, Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Nadia, Jessore Faridpur, Bakarganj, Chittagong and Malda.

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Public Health.

[Report of the Director of Public Health, Bengal, for the year 1929.]

General health conditions.

418. During 1929 both the birth and death rates decreased as compared with 1928, the former by 1·0 per cent. and the latter by 7·8 per cent.; nevertheless the birth-rates was 2·1 per cent. higher and the death-rate 7·1 per cent. lower than the quinquennial average. The excess of births over deaths or rate of natural increase of the population was 5·8 per mille. The birth-rate of Bengal was lower than that of all the other British Indian provinces except Burma, and the death-rate was higher than Burma and Assam. Six districts alone—Jessore, Calcutta, Rajshahi, Pabna, Nadia and Dinajpur—showed an excess of deaths over births, that in the four latter being insignificant. In Calcutta, this is due to the nature of the population, but in Jessore, entirely owing to the ravages of disease the death-rate has been exceeding the birth-rate off and on for the past 21 years. The infant mortality rate 179·9 per mille of births was a little higher than that of the last two years, viz., 178·1 and 178·0 but was still considerably lower than the quinquennial average of 183·7. The general death-rates from cholera, small-pox, fever, dysentery and diarrhoea, respiratory diseases, injuries and all other causes are shown below compared with the figures for 1928:—

	1928.	1929.	Percentage. + or —
Cholera	2·9	1·7	—41·4
Small-pox	0·9	0·4	—55·5
Fever	16·1	15·3	—5·0
Dysentery and diarrhœa ..	0·7	0·8	+14·3
Respiratory disease ..	0·9	1·1	+22·2
Injuries	0·4	0·4	..
Other causes	3·5	3·6	+2·9
	25·5	23·5	—7·9
Birth-rate	29·6	29·3	—1·0
Natural increase	4·1	5·8	+41·5

Registration and verification of vital statistics.

419. Out of the 118 municipalities, only 30 instituted proceedings in 222 instances for neglect to report births and deaths and in 125 only were the delinquents convicted. In rural areas, registration is better performed but the returns are received very late, which greatly delays the annual report by the Director of Public Health.

Epidemic diseases: Cholera.

420. Cholera claimed 81,090 victims in 1929 against 136,245 in 1928 showing a reduction of 55,155 deaths and 41·4 per cent. in the death-rate. It caused 7·4 per cent. of the total provincial mortality against 11·5 per cent. in 1928. The seasonal incidence underwent a marked change. In the first seven months it was less than either the decennial mean and the monthly rates of the previous year; but in the last 3 months of the year, it greatly exceeded both of them; Khulna, Jessore and Nadia suffered most among the districts and Kushtia in Nadia district among the towns. A little more than a million and a half inoculations were performed in 1929 and about 95,000 water-supplies were disinfected in addition to a number of infected latrines, houses and ghats; the intending pilgrims to Ganga Sagar and Puri Rathjatra melas were inoculated, so also the Haj pilgrims. Intensive propaganda by means of lantern lectures and magic lantern demonstrations and the timely help afforded by the Government staff of medical officers under the Bengal Public Health Department helped to limit the outbreak.

Small-pox.

421. Small-pox accounted for 20,407 deaths with a death-rate 0·4 per mille in 1929 against 43,558 deaths and a rate of 0·9 per mille in the previous year. The death-rate was thus reduced by 55·5 per cent. The quinquennial outbreak that started towards the close of 1924 is thus on the wane, but there is still a likelihood of the apprehended pandemic occurring during the next 2 or 3 years. During 1929, about one-ninth of the total population has been vaccinated but not until this proportion is raised to one-seventh and continued for several years can the province be considered safe against any possible outbreak of the disease. Besides a free supply of calf lymph, the local Government contributed Rs. 50,000 as usual for carrying on free vaccination during the year. Small-pox caused 1·9 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. It was at its worst in March and April, and its lowest in October and November. Eastern Bengal suffered the most, especially the districts of Dacca, Faridpur and Chittagong where the death-rates were 1·7, 1·6 and 0·8 per mille respectively. The small-pox death-rate in towns was lower by 33·3 per cent. and in rural areas by 54·7 per cent. Nearly one-third of the total deaths in towns occurred in Calcutta alone. This is due to the fact that the vast majority of

immigrants from other provinces are unprotected. Of the total deaths from small-pox 9·1 per cent. occurred among infants under one year of age and 24·5 per cent. among children between 1 and 10 years of age.

Fevers.

422. Fevers caused 713,531 deaths in 1929 against 752,003 in 1928. This is the lowest figure for 20 years. Of the total deaths from all causes, fevers were responsible for 65·2 per cent. Malaria and other fevers decreased, while there was an increase in the number of deaths reported from measles, enteric, kala-azar and relapsing fever. But the diagnosis of relapsing fever is in most cases an error.

Malaria.

423. Altogether 335,414 deaths were ascribed to malaria yielding a death-rate of 7·2 per mille against 368,691 deaths and a death-rate of 7·9 per mille in 1928. Within the last 9 years, the number of deaths reported from malaria have been reduced by half. And while in 1921 68·9 per cent. of the fever deaths were ascribed to malaria, this proportion was reduced to 47·0 in 1929. Again while in 1921 about half the provincial mortality was said to be due to malaria, less than one-third of the total deaths were returned under this head in 1929. Since 1920 also the aggregate fever index of the province has fallen by nearly 27 per cent. Fever indices of districts show that Nadia, Hooghly and Jessore were the worst affected areas. The aggregate rural death-rate was a little more than six times as high as that of the towns; but 20 towns returned no deaths at all from malaria. Among towns Chakdaha and Kumarkhali both in Nadia district had the highest death-rate. About 9,000 lbs. of quinine was consumed in 1929 against 6,800 lbs. in 1928. Consumption increased in every district, except Birbhum, Midnapore, Howrah, Bakarganj and Darjeeling. Experimental anti-malaria schemes were continued during the year under review at Meenglas, Singaran-Toposi, Jangipur and Banka Valley.

Kala-azar.

424. The provincial death-rate from kala-azar rose from ·22 in 1928 to ·23 per mille, but among the towns' population on the contrary it was reduced by about 21 per cent. Satkhira returned the highest rate in towns, viz., 2·8 per mille. Kala-azar accounted for 1·5 per cent. of fever deaths and 0·9 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. There were 114,845 new cases of kala-azar admitted for treatment at kala-azar centres and other medical institutions in the province against 141,970 in the previous year and 188,944 in 1925. This reduction was common to all the districts except Pabna, Malda and Murshidabad where admissions in 1929 exceeded those of the previous year. Altogether 629 special kala-azar centres worked in the

Chap. VI. VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

various districts throughout the year and treated 40,288 cases. The local Government contributed Rs. 50,000 towards the cost of this work.

Enteric fever measles, relapsing fever and other fevers.

425. The death-rate from enteric fever increased by 10 per cent. and that from measles by 25 per cent. in 1929 as compared with the previous year. These increases occurred in the rural areas in both cases. In the towns including Calcutta, the death-rates from these causes were reduced. Enteric fever caused 1·5 per cent. and fever ·9 per cent. of the total provincial mortality and measles ·3 per cent. of the former and ·2 per cent. of the latter. The deaths reported from replapsing fever were about the same as in the previous year. It is practically certain that deaths are reported as due to relapsing fever in error as the condition is uncommon in Bengal. No death from this cause was reported to have occurred in Calcutta. "Other fevers" accounted for 350,273 deaths with a death-rate of 7·5 per mille in 1929.

Plauge.

426. No death from plague was reported in the province during the year under review.

Dysentery and diarrhœa.

427. Dysentery caused 21,052 deaths and diarrhoea 16,104 making a total of 37,156 and giving a death-rate of ·8 per mille in 1929 against 33,419 deaths and a death-rate of ·72 in 1928. These two diseases were responsible for 3·4 per cent. of total provincial mortality. Since 1911, deaths from these causes have increased by 67·0 per cent. This increase is undoubtedly due to more accurate reporting. Howrah and Calcutta were the chief sufferers. Compared with the preceding year, the number of deaths in the rural areas increased by 4,403 whereas in the towns it was reduced by 666. Among towns, Nawabganj in Malda district returned the highest death-rate, viz., 7·2 per mille.

Respiratory diseases.

428. The number of deaths from respiratory diseases was 52,843 in 1929 exceeding those in 1928 by 10,601 and increasing the death-rate by 25·3 per cent. Influenza, pneumonia, phthisis and other respiratory diseases all showed an increase of from 15 to 27 per cent. Of the total provincial mortality 4·8 per cent. was due to respiratory diseases. Pneumonia accounted for nearly 45 per cent., phthisis nearly 21 per cent. and influenza nearly 6 per cent. of the deaths from respiratory diseases. Within the last 19 years, deaths reported from respiratory diseases have been gradually increasing until they are now about five times what they were. The increase is most marked in the rural areas, about ten times as many deaths as formerly are now reported from these casues. In towns the death-rate is more than double what it was in 1911. Khirpai had the highest mortality rate 11·2 per mille.

Influenza accounted for 3,003, pneumonia for 23,491, phthisis for 10,969. But these figures represent only a small fraction of the deaths that actually occur each year from these diseases.

Injuries.

429. Injuries caused 20,002 deaths during the year—300 less than the previous year. Suicides and snake-bites were less by 420 and 287 respectviely, though death from wounds and accidents and from rabies increased by 334 and 73 respectively. Injuries were responsible for 1·8 per cent. of the total provincial mortality, and 1,818 of the deaths occurred in towns, of which 848 were in Calcutta alone, and 18,184 in the rural areas; 169,234 deaths were reported from all other causes, of which 23,242 occurred in towns and 145,992 in rural areas.

Other epidemic diseases.

430. Leprosy has been found to be much more common in Bankura district than was supposed; and the attendance at the leper home under the Wesleyan Mission in Bankura town and the 3 treatment centres started by the District Board was quite large. In Midnapore district 271 cases of leprosy were treated in 1929 compared with 169 in the previous year. In Malda district, all the medical officers have been trained for treating leprosy cases and medicines have been supplied to all the dispensaries where such cases are being treated. Propaganda with the help of magic lantern and cinema to spread the knowledge of early signs and symptoms of leprosy among the masses was carried on, and a cinema film on this subject was purchased from the British Empire Leprosy Association. Outbreaks of beri-beri were also reported from Burdwan, Bankura, Jessore, Faridpur and Rajshahi districts. In Bogra district, beri-beri prevailed largely in the north-western part of the district, particularly within the Panchbibi and Jaipur thanas and appeared to have coincided with the starting of a large number of rice mills at Hilli. Sixty-nine cases of beri-beri with 4 deaths were reported from towns in Bakarganj, the majority from Pirojpur; and 82 cases of epidemic dropsy with 4 deaths were returned from the rural areas of Gaurnadi, Mathbaria and Pirojpur. Seventy-eight cases recovered after cutting off rice and oil from their diet.

General sanitation in the Ports of Calcutta and Chittagong.

431. (*a*) *Port of Calcutta.*—The city and port of Calcutta being free from plague no routine disinfection was done of clothing and bedding of Asiatic and African members of the crew and of third class deck passengers of ships leaving for any port beyond British India. There were 4 deaths of European seamen (1 from small-pox and 3 from other causes) reported to have occurred in hospitals. The admission rate to hospitals for all cuases calculated on arrival was 23·5 and the death-rate was

Chap. VI. VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

0·15 per mille. Only 3 deaths were registered at the Shipping Office (1 from heart failure and 2 from injury) the death-rate being ·11 per mille. Among Asiatic seamen 154 deaths were reported (13 from cholera, 2 from bowel complaint, 56 from accidental injuries, 26 from drowning, 1 from electrical shock, 1 by suicide and 55 from natural causes) giving a death-rate of 8·35 per mille. The cases of sickness admitted to various hospitals numbered ·99—of which 7 died, 6 from cholera and 1 from influenza. Altogether 7 ships with infectious disease on board arrived in the port during the year under review. No case of infectious disease was reported to have occurred on undecked native sea-going crafts.

(b) *Port of Chittagong.*—Altogether 16 cases were admitted to the hospitals, the admission rate of European seamen calculated on arrival figure being 5·9 per mille. Among Asiatic seamen 73 were admitted to the Chittagong General Hospital—2 suffering from cholera, 6 from malaria, 20 from simple fever, 10 from diarrhœa and dysentery, 6 from influenza, 1 from chicken-pox and 28 from other causes. Many cases of beri-beri arrived in the port from Burma.

Public Health Laboratories: (a) Bengal Public Health Laboratory.

432. During 1929, 3,681 chemical, 5,663 bacteriological and 3,486 food samples were examined in the Public Health Laboratory against 3,501, 5,501 and 2,422 in the previous year, showing an increase of 180,162 and 1,064 samples respectively. The aggregate increase amounted to 12·3 per cent. Of the food samples 1,116 were received from district boards, 1,687 from municipalities, 529 from the Carmichael Hospital and 154 from other sources. Murshidabad sent 391 samples and Nadia 231. The district boards of Burdwan, Bankura, Rangpur and Rajshahi, and about one half of the municipalities did not send a single sample during the year. Special enquiries were conducted during the year in connection with (1) the applicability of Koser's Citrate Utilisation Test in the sanitary analysis of Bengal waters, (2) the effect of storage of antiseptics and disinfectants on Rideal Walker Value in the tropics, (3) the nature of the deposit observed in the Calcutta filtered water-supply in the month of May, (4) the fermentation of sugar in sweet drinks, (5) the nutritive value of ghee and vegetable products, (6) the elimination of the objectionable taste of chlorinated water, (7) the stabilisation of hypochlorite solution and (8) the radio-activity of water.

(b) Dacca Branch Public Health Laboratory.

433. At the Dacca branch laboratory 176 samples of water were examined up to 30th June 1929, when for the relief of pressure on the staff this work was temporarily transferred to

the Central Laboratory at Calcutta. Meanwhile 328 samples of sewage from the Dacca Sewage Works, 9 samples of alum and 10 of bleaching powder were examined chemically, and, in addition, 435 samples of water were examined bacteriologically during the same period. The food samples examined in 1929 were 1,339 against 973 in the previous year.

(c) Bengal Excise Laboratory.

434. In the Excise Laboratory 7,976 samples were analysed during the year consisting of 6,913 medicinal preparations for assay of alcoholic strength, 80 special medical preparations for determination of spirit strength, drug contents and general quality, 30 samples of water for testing suitability for reduction of spirit, 359 distillery samples, 322 illicit liquors, one country spirit, 12 tari, 13 pachwai, 26 brandy, beer, gin, 10 weights and measures for testing accuracy, 209 instruments for standardisation and one special sample.

(d) Bengal Vaccine Laboratory.

435. During the year under review, 1,991,240 cubic centimetres of anti-cholera vaccine were manufactured, of which 1,716,410 cubic centi-metres were issued.

(e) Darjeeling Municipal Laboratory.

436. In the Darjeeling Municipal Laboratory 66 samples of water were examined chemically and 281 bacteriologically; 54 samples of sewage effluents were also examined chemically. The samples of food analysed were 553 against 391 in the previous year. Of these 4·4 per cent. of the milk, 15 per cent. of the ghee and 2·5 per cent. of the mustard oil samples were found to be adulterated. Besides this work, 1,833 clinical samples consisting of 265 urine, 265 blood, 25 pus, 275 stools, 824 swabs and 179 sputum were also examined.

School Hygiene.

437. During 1929, 172 schools for boys and 13 for girls were inspected by 34 medical officers and 18,488 boys and 434 girls were examined. The plans of 106 educational institutions were also examined and passed during the year.

Dhai training.

438. About 95 dhai training classes were organised during the year and 1,076 dhais were trained, a total of 609 certificates and 809 bags were distributed to trained dhais.

Educational propaganda and publicity.

439. The Publicity Bureau of the Public Health Department delivered 396 lectures during the year and the number of health exhibitions and demonstrations organised throughout the province increased considerably. Charts, pictorial posters and leaflets and pamphlets on various health subjects were supplied to the organisers, and, wherever feasible, departmental models also were lent for exhibition. The health films prepared by the department were in great demand. A demonstration car was fitted up for public health propaganda in the Eastern Bengal Railway exhibition train and was visited by no less than 37,000

persons. Very large crowds of people also attended at the evening cinema shows. The demand for lantern slides having increased greatly 50 sets of tinted slides were produced besides 40 sets of new slides on foods and vitamins which were also designed and prepared together with 25 entirely new slides on tuberculosis. The department possesses 26 films, comprising 32 reels on various preventible diseases. As in the previous years, local newspapers and the Indian Broadcasting Company and other agencies have been utilised for publicity work.

Fairs and melas.

440. The Ganga Sagar mela was held on the Sagar island on the 12th, 13th and 14th January and was attended by 38,000 pilgrims. There was no sickness on the embarkation ground, but on the return journey Messrs. Hoare Miller and Company's hospital ship brought 6 cases of cholera from the fair, of which one died and 5 were admitted in the Diamond Harbour Hospital. Six cases of cholera were admitted to the hospital at the mela ground, of these one died in the hospital, another died *en route* to Diamond Harbour, 3 were taken to Diamond Harbour and one was discharged. There were a number of suspicious cases of diarrhœa and dysentery and a case of small-pox in an unvaccinated female child. Many pilgrims were inoculated prior to embarkation and 1,348 anti-cholera inoculation were also performed at the mela ground. At the Maijbhandar mela in Chittagong district which lasted for 6 days and was attended by about 25,000 people one death from cholera was reported to have occurred. No death from any infectious disease was reported to have occurred at any other fair held in the province.

Septic tank latrines.

441. The plans of the following septic tank installations were approved during the year 1929:—

	Users.
Shalimar Paint, Colour and Varnish works	500
Nuddea Jute Mills Cooly Line ..	2,500
Gagalbhai Jute Mill ..	3,000
Bhatpara Power House ..	160
Clive Jute Mills	12
Ishapur Metal and Steel Factory ..	500

A total of 1,474 samples of effluent were analysed at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory—431 bacteriologically and 1,043 chemically. Of the former 17 per cent. were found unsatisfactory and 83 per cent. were sterile as a result of successful treatment with chlorinated lime. The mill authorities were instructed through the Chief Inspector of Factories in 57 cases to remove unsatisfactory conditions and defects. Periodi-

cal examination of the effluent from Tittagarh Sewage Works showed that it was very satisfactory chemically. A "Simplex" activated sludge plant is being used and another similar plant is under construction. The activated sludge plants at Hooghly jute mills, Gramophone Factory at Dum-Dum and another at Lillooah are giving satisfactory results chemically and bacteriologically after proper treatment with disinfectants.

Prevention of food adulteration.

442. The Bengal Food Adulteration Act, 1919, has been extended from July 1927 to the whole of Bengal except Calcutta. The object of this law is to prevent the sale of adulterated foodstuffs in the mufassal. The following articles of food have so far been notified for the purpose:—

Milk.	Mustard oil.
Dahi.	Wheat flour (maida).
Chhana.	Ata.
Ghee.	Tea.
Butter.	

The inauguration of the rural public health organisation scheme has facilitated the working of the Bengal Food Adulteration Act. Except for the district board of Howrah, which has deferred action and the district boards of Dinajpur, Bogra, Pabna and Mymensingh, from whom reports have not yet been received, all other district boards have authorised their sanitary officers to exercise the powers and perform the duties specified in sections 10 and 12 of the Act.

Sanitary administration in municipal and rural areas.

443. Twenty Health Officers and 97 Sanitary Inspectors were employed in the municipalities of the province (excluding Calcutta), the statutory scale being 21 health officers and 99 Sanitary Inspectors. The Barisal Municipality has not employed a Health Officer for the last 16 years, while the Santipur and Barasat Municipalities have failed to employ the required Sanitary Inspectors. The Bhatpara Municipality employed only 2 out of the 3 Sanitary Inspectors sanctioned by Government. Gaibandha Municipality employed a Sanitary Inspector although not required to do so under the Bengal Municipal Act. The Howrah Municipality appointed 3 more Assistant Health Officers in addition to the sanctioned establishment.

Every district board except Darjeeling maintained a qualified Health Officer. The rural public health organisation scheme proceeded a step further and a total of 515 thanas were provided with Sanitary Inspectors or Assistant Health Officers. These

officers did very efficient work in connection with cholera and small-pox, which affected the province during the year under review.

Vaccination.

444. A total of 2,304,461 primary vaccinations and 3,229,419 revaccinations making an aggregate of 5,533,880 operations were performed during 1929-30, on 5,529,138 persons against 2,052,217 primary vaccinations and 3,229,202 revaccinations or an aggregate of 5,281,419 operations on 5,276,404 persons in the previous year, showing an increase of 252,461 vaccinations in the year under review. Of the primary operations 93·3 per cent. and 53·3 per cent. of the revaccinations were found to be successful. These included 305,586 children under one year and 1,415,263 between 1 and 6 years of age. The ratio of successful vaccinations per mille of population was 82·9 for the year. On an average each vaccinator performed 2,472 vaccinations. The vaccinations performed in rural areas numbered 4,997,443 and 411,044 were done in the municipalities and 125,393 on tea gardens, factories, railways steamers, dispensaries and jails against 4,865,214, 297,403 and 117,412 in the previous year, showing an increase respectively of 132,229; 113,641 and 7,981 operations in 1929-30. The Khulna district did 203·8 per cent. more vaccinations than in the previous year and large increases were reported from the Municipalities of Midnapore, Howrah, Calcutta, Nadia, Jessore, Jalpaiguri, Dacca, Mymensingh and Noakhali.

During the year under review Malda district board continued their intensive vaccination campaign and thereby raised the proportion of the population protected against small-pox to 982·5 per 1,000, which is the highest ratio yet achieved anywhere in India. It is hoped that other district boards will follow this example. Of the available infant population in the province 280·4 per mille were successfully vaccinated against 233·3 in the previous year; in the rural areas the proportion was 259·7 and in the municipalities 692·4 against 216·9 and 576·8 respectively in 1928-29, showing an increase of 20·2 per cent. in the province, 14·8 in the rural and 20·0 per cent. in urban areas.

The total cost of vaccination amounted to Rs. 514,006-15-6 against Rs. 484.635-10-11 in the previous year; Rs. 191,917 (including the annual recurring grant of Rs. 50,000) being contributed towards this expenditure from the provincial funds, Rs. 190,982-5-9 from district funds and Rs. 1,13,107-9-9 from municipal funds. The average cost of each successful vaccination varied from annas 8 and pies 5 in Darjeeling district to 8 pies in Khulna.

A total of 4,720,960 grains of anti-small-pox lymph were manufactured at the Bengal Vaccine Depot during the year and 4,490,939 grains issued to the various local bodies. The average amount of pulp collected from each cow calf was 246·9 grains and from each buffalo calf 672·0 grains. A little over 200 packets were issued daily. The total proceeds of the sale of lymph amounted to Rs. 11,318-11 against Rs. 8,551-6 in the previous year and the total expenditure to Rs. 59,482-13 (including overhead charges for supervision, etc.) against Rs. 42,051-14 in 1928-29. Besides performing their ordinary duties in connection with the manufacture of lymph, the Superintendent and the Senior Depot Assistant, Babu S. N. Mazumdar, vaccinated 3,093 Government officials and the subordinate staff at Writers' Buildings, and other places; in addition, special demonstrations and lectures at the Calcutta Health Exhibition were delivered by the latter and regular courses of lectures and demonstrations at the biennial sessions of the Sanitary Inspectors' Training Class and to the senior students of the Calcutta Medical College by the former.

Sanitary Engineering.

[Bengal Sanitary Board's Report and the Report of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department for the year 1929.]

Sanitary Board.

445. The Bengal Sanitary Board consisted of 6 official and 9 non-official members during the year 1929. The Board held 5 ordinary meetings during the year, all in Calcutta. Six sketch projects and a detailed project of water-supply were approved by the Board during the year and submitted to the local Government. The Board drew the attention of the local Government to the serious condition of the Mymensingh water-works and urged immediate action on their recommendations. The Board modified the water-supply scheme for the Noakhali Municipality and returned for revision the water-supply extension scheme of the Suri Municipality as they considered it to be inadequate. The Board considered the proposal for the formation of a main drainage board for Calcutta and drew the attention of Government to the urgency of the problem. The municipal inspection reports and the reports on the examination of the various water-supplies in Bengal were discussed and necessary action taken by them.

Sanitary Engineering.

446. Under the control and supervision of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, construction of 22 schemes was carried on during the year including 14 water-supply

schemes—one each at Dacca, Comilla, Chandpur, Narayanganj, Khulna, Patuakhali, Faridpur, Rajshahi, English Bazar, Bansberia, Asansol, Midnapore, Raniganj and Suri and 3 sewerage schemes—one each for the Dacca University, Kalimpong Bazar and Titagarh—and also the sanitation scheme for the Government building at Dacca, the Bhatpara improvement scheme and the Suri drainage scheme. No work could practically be done during the year on the Dacca main drainage scheme, but some progress was made on the Outfall Works. During the year 3 tube wells were sunk under the control and supervision of the Chief Engineer—one each at Jhargram, Salboni in the Midnapore district and at English Bazar in the Malda district. The departmental boring plant and the staff were engaged in sinking successfully an experimental tube well at Rauzan in the district of Chittagong. Four sketch projects of water-supply at Mymensingh, Comilla, Satkhira and Bagerhat and 7 detailed projects all of water-supplies at Jalpaiguri, Tamluk, Noakhali, Midnapore Central Jail, Satkhira, Suri and Barisal were prepared by him during the year in addition to 2 sketch projects of sewerage at Rajshahi and Titagarh and one surface drainage project at Naihati. The Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, drew up the plans and estimate of 12 water-supply schemes including four estimates for tube wells, and one drainage scheme, besides performance of several works of miscellaneous nature at the request of the local authorities.

The total capital expenditure on water-works and sewerage works during the year was Rs. 8,74,587 and Rs. 2,91,745 respectively.

MEDICAL RELIEF.

Calcutta Hospitals and Dispensaries.

[Report on the working of hospitals and dispensaries in Bengal, 1929.]

Number of institutions.

447. Forty-two hospitals and dispensaries including the Howrah General Hospital were working in Calcutta at the beginning of the year to which was added one out-door dispensary, viz., that attached to the Government of India Printing and Stationery Department, Calcutta, towards the latter part of the year. The 22 in-door hospitals provided accommodation for 3,397 beds as against 3,350 beds in the previous year. The Chittaranjan Hospital had an increase of 46 beds, the Baldeodas Maternity Home 6, and the Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital 1: while in the Campbell Hospital 6 beds were closed down owing to overcrowding.

Attendance and admission.

448. The total number of patients treated in all cases of hospitals and dispensaries was 689,282, of whom 51,842 were in-patients and 637,440 out-patients. The total increase of patients in-door and out-door taken together was 44,416 which is mainly due to the progressive increase in the number of beds in certain hospitals and the general popularity of the Calcutta institutions. The number of deaths among in-patients was 5,753 as against 5,815 in 1928, the death-rate remaining practically stationary at about 11 per cent.

Nursing.

449. Little improvement was effected in the nursing arrangement in any of the principal hospitals in Calcutta. In the Medical College Hospitals the work had to be carried on under great difficulties owing to the suspension of recruitment of nurses by the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution for a considerable length of time. Consequently very great stress was put on the existing staff of nurses who, however, discharged the heavy duties with considerable success. In the Campbell Hospital the nursing system lagged behind in comparison with the improvements effected in the administration of other departments. The new scheme for training male nursing orderlies in that institution was sanctioned by Government as an experimental measure, and on its success will depend the application of the system in other institutions. The nursing in other big hospitals remained the same as in the previous year.

Finance.

450. The total income of the Calcutta hospitals under classes I, III and IV dropped from Rs. 35,44,692 in 1928 to Rs. 32,78,243, of which Rs. 19,16,084 or 58·4 per cent. was contributed by Government and Rs. 1,58,976 was on account of subscriptions and donations. Rs. 3,17,744 and Rs. 3,70,657 were respectively contributed by municipal and other local funds. The total cost of maintenance of the Calcutta hospitals excluding investments amounted to Rs. 31,67,755 as compared with Rs. 32,90,381 in the previous year.

District Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Number of institutions.

451. Thirty-five allopathic and 8 non-allopathic dispensaries were opened and 5 allopathic dispensaries closed during the year. The total number of dispensaries was 1,144 besides 81 non-allopathic institutions. In several districts there were also temporary dispensaries which rendered medical relief during epidemics and on the occasions of hats, melas and fairs. Certain itinerant and subsidised dispensaries also were, as usual, in operation in the mufassal.

Number of beds. 452. The total number of beds in the district hospitals rose from 5,553 to 5,675, of which 4,272 were for male patients and 1,403 for female patients.

Attendance. 453. The total number of patients in-door and out-door treated in all classes of dispensaries stood at 8,331,372 as compared with 7,938,979 in 1928. The increase is due partly to the opening of new dispensaries and partly to the popularity and increased activity of these institutions in general.

Nursing. 454. No noticeable improvement was made upon the unsatisfactory nursing arrangement prevailing in the mufassal hospitals. Proper arrangement for nursing patients by trained nurses does not exist even in the majority of the sadar hospitals where the matter is left to illiterate ward servants with the help of the compounders. Poverty of most of the institutions and the difficulty in recruiting suitable women nurses renders this problem a very difficult one at present.

Disease. 455. Malaria, as usual, accounted for the largest number of patients treated. There was a considerable increase in the number of sufferers from this disease, viz., 2,227,502 against 1,996,198 in the previous year. The number of kala-azar patients treated fell from 65,829 to 64,066, while the number of dysentery cases increased from 190,538 to 209,226. There was also an increase in the number of tuberculosis cases which rose by 1,142 to 10,937, but the number of cases suffering from small-pox and cholera showed a decline.

Finance. 456. The total income of classes I, III and IV dispensaries excluding opening balances amounted to Rs. 25,27,076 as compared with Rs. 23,97,242 in the preceding year. The municipal and other local fund contributions amounted to Rs. 14,84,906 which formed 58·76 per cent. of the total income as against 59·83 per cent. during 1928. The Government contributions rose by Rs. 40,501 to Rs. 4,54,271. The cost of upkeep of the hospitals and dispensaries excluding investments amounted to Rs. 23,78,188 against Rs. 23,04,722 in the previous year.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report of the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for 1929.]

General. 457. The Eden Sanitarium and Eden Hospital were founded for the benefit of Europeans residing in this province and elsewhere, who are unable to obtain in their homes the care and attention which they require when overtaken by sickness or accident.

Number of patients.

458. During the year, the Sanitarium remained open from 1st April to 3rd November, and the Hospital from 26th March to 31st December 1929. There was a decrease in the number of admissions from 475 to 428. The total number of patients treated in the Hospital was 97 of whom 79 were cured, 17 were relieved and 1 died.

Finance.

459. No special grant from Government was required by the institution beyond the usual grant of Rs. 1,500 for the maintenance of free beds. There was a heavy decrease in receipts from subscriptions and donations. There was a loss of Rs. 1,405 in the year's working and the balance sheet shows that liabilities exceeded assets by more than Rs. 12,000.

The Poisons Act.

[Working of the Poisons Act during the year 1929-30.]

460. Three thousand five hundred and forty-five licences were current during the year throughout the Presidency excluding Calcutta as against 3,571 in the previous year showing a decrease of 39 licences. In Calcutta, 547 licences were renewed and 158 fresh licences issued making a total of 705 against 635 licences current in the preceding year showing an increase of 70 licences. During the year there were 109 prosecutions under the Act (including one pending from last year) of which 97 were in Calcutta and the remaining in the mufassal. Out of 97 prosecutions in Calcutta, 96 ended in conviction, the remaining case being withdrawn on the death of the accused, while out of 12 cases in the mufassal, 9 ended in conviction and in one case the accused was let off with a warning. There were 10 cases of cattle poisoning, viz., 3 each in the districts of Tippera and 24-Parganas (including 1 case pending from the preceding year) and 2 each in the districts of Jessore and Khulna. The accused in Tippera and Jessore could not be detected while the cases reported in Khulna were declared as "mistake of fact." All the 3 cases in 24-Parganas ended in conviction.

Emigration.

Inland Emigration.

[Report on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, for the year ending 30th June 1930.]

461. There was noticeable decrease in the number of emigrants despatched to the labour districts during the year under report. This was due chiefly to the temporary suspension

Chap. VI. VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

of recruitment in consequence of heavy floods in Cachar and Sylhet resulting in many breaches on the Assam-Bengal Railway. The number of emigrants recruited in Bengal was only 183 as against 993 in the preceding year, of which 78 came from Birbhum district and the rest from the districts of Bankura, Burdwan, Midnapore and Murshidabad. The total number of recruits from Bengal and other provinces embarking at Goalundo was 10,804 (including those recruited in the Bombay Presidency outside the Act) as compared with 19,565 in the previous year. The number of garden sardars employed was 263 (including 45 Sardarins) as against 604 in the previous year. All worked under the supervision of licensed local agents, who were 15 in number.

The rest houses for emigrants at Kharagpur, Asansol, Naihati, and Goalundo, maintained by the Tea Districts Labour Association were frequently inspected and were found to be satisfactory in every respect.

Altogether 7 deaths occurred among the emigrants in transit, viz., 3 at the halting station at Kharagpur, 1 at Asansol, 2 at Naihati and 1 at Goalundo. Out of the total number of emigrants who arrived from the different recruiting districts in and outside the Presidency of Bengal, 8 deserted, viz., 2 from Kharagpur and 6 from Naihati, and 5 were released. There was no death or desertion amongst emigrants during their journeys by steamer from Goalundo or by railway from Chandpur to their final destination.

In connection with the transport of labour to Assam receipts amounted to Rs. 809-15 as against Rs. 750 in the previous year, while the expenditure decreased from Rs. 9,341-8-6 to Rs. 9,085-6.

Foreign Emigration.

462. There was no emigration of skilled or unskilled labour from the Presidency of Bengal to countries overseas.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

[See General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, Pages 276-289.]

Education.

Educational institutions and expenditure.

463. During the year under review the number of institutions increased by 1,480. Recognised institutions rose in number from 63,910 to 65,452 and unrecognised institutions on the other hand fell from 1,583 to 1,521. The number of pupils attending recognised institutions rose from 2,567,357 to 2,633,082 and pupils attending unrecognised institutions decreased from 57,865 to 54,754. Of the total number of pupils reading in all classes of institutions 2,176,886 were males and 510,950 were females as compared with 2,129,098 and 496,124, respectively, in the previous year. The total expenditure on public instruction amounted to about Rs. 444 lakhs, of which about Rs. 155 lakhs were received from provincial revenues, Rs. 18 lakhs and Rs. 12 lakhs from district and municipal funds, respectively, Rs. 188 lakhs from fees and Rs. 71 lakhs from other private sources.

Collegiate education.

464. On the 31st March 1930, the number of arts colleges for men and women remained unchanged at 44 and 4, respectively. They together enrolled 20,871 students against 20,822 in the previous year. The cost of maintaining arts colleges amounted, during the year under review, to Rs. 37,52,295, as compared with Rs. 36,57,438 in the year preceding, the average annual cost per college and pupils being Rs. 78,172 and Rs. 179, respectively. Out of the 44 colleges for men, 10 were, as before, maintained by Government the rest being managed by private bodies. The number of students reading in colleges for men increased from 20,469 in 1928-29 to 20,496 in 1929-30, of whom 17,434 were Hindus and 2,613 were Muhammadans, while 449 belonged to other communities. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 17,463, 2,584 and 422, respectively.

The total expenditure for the upkeep of colleges for men increased during the year under review from Rs. 35,10,693 to Rs. 36,12,210, of which Rs. 13,63,928 was met from provincial revenues, Rs. 4,720 from district and municipal funds, Rs. 19,02,106 from fees and Rs. 3,41,456 from other sources.

On the basis of recommendations made by the Syndicate of Calcutta University a sum of Rs. 1,29,000 was, as in previous years, distributed by Government among private colleges, chiefly for the improvement of libraries, laboratories and gymnasia. Besides, a sum of Rs. 2,64,511 was disbursed by Government direct in recurring and capital grants to non-Government colleges during the year under review.

No meeting of the Advisory Committee for higher education was held during the year.

Secondary education.

465. The total number of secondary schools for Indian boys rose during the year under review from 2,825 to 2,893. High schools increased by 26 and middle English schools by 50. Middle vernacular schools decreased by 8. Pupils reading in high and middle English schools rose by 12,241 and 6,736 respectively while in middle vernacular schools there was a loss of 575 pupils. The cost of maintaining secondary schools amounted to more than Rs. 125 lakhs of rupees of which about Rs. 103 lakhs were met from private sources.

In many high and middle English schools provident fund schemes have been instituted for the benefit of their teachers which the school authorities are required to maintain as a condition of recognition.

Primary education.

466. The number of primary schools for Indian boys rose from 41,232 to 42,363, while the number of pupils reading in them rose from 1,561,307 to 1,590,834. The primary classes of secondary schools also had 210,434 pupils against 204,071 in the previous year. Of the total Hindu male population 6·7 per cent. total Muhammadan male population 6·5 per cent. were undergoing instruction in boys' primary schools at the close of the year under report. Of the total number of pupils, 713,447 were Hindus and 863,593 were Muhammadans. The total cost of maintaining these schools amounted to Rs. 68,95,245, of these Rs. 21,39,383 came from provincial revenues, Rs. 7,71,585 from district boards, Rs. 5,24,235 from municipal funds and Rs. 34,60,042 or 50·2 per cent. of the total expenditure from private sources. During the year the number of panchayati union schools rose by 86 to 840. A sum of Rs. 1,33,562 was sanctioned for the maintenance of these schools. A sum of Rs. 14,658 was also sanctioned by Government towards the cost of starting 9 new schemes of free primary education on the basis of the scheme prepared by Mr. Biss. There were 460 primary schools for boys in Calcutta at the end of the year, of which 134 were free and maintained by the Corporation.

Training of male teachers.

467. During the year 1929-30 there were 95 institutions for the training of teachers for Indian schools, viz., 2 colleges, 5 normal or first grade schools and 88 guru and muallim training schools. The two Government Training Colleges at Calcutta and Dacca, which train teachers for secondary schools, continued to do useful work throughout the year. They had a total enrolment of 134 students on 31st March 1930, as compared with 135 students on the corresponding date of 1929. The majority of the pupils now admitted to the Training Colleges are teachers of private schools and graduates, who intend to enter the teaching profession, after taking the B. T. Course. The Dacca University held a Vacation Course for teachers during the year. Of the 19 candidates who took this course 16 passed.

The two State scholarships available for the professional training of graduate teachers of secondary schools in the Presidency were, as usual, awarded during the year to one Moslem and one non-Moslem teacher to enable them to undergo a two-year course of training in Great Britain.

First grade training or normal schools.

468. On 31st March 1930 there were 5 normal or first grade training schools with a roll strength of 431 pupils in them as against 6 and 463 respectively in the corresponding year. For financial reasons the aided training school at Krishnagar under the management of the Church Missionary Society was abolished in January 1930. Out of 171 students who sat for the final examination, 136 passed.

Guru and muallim training schools.

469. During the year 1929-30 the Presidency had 88 guru and muallim training schools with an enrolment of 2,006 pupils against 87 schools attended by 2,001 pupils in the previous year. The increase in the number of schools was due to the recognition by the department of the Mission Training School for Gurus at Birisiri in the district of Mymensingh. Of the total number of schools, 81 are managed by Government, one by the Corporation of Calcutta and 6 by Missionary Societies. Out of 1,675 students who sat for the final examination, 1,397 passed.

Training of women teachers.

470. Women teachers of secondary schools continue to be trained at the training departments attached to the Diocesan College and to Loreto House, pending the development of a scheme for the establishment under departmental control of a Women's Training College in Calcutta. These institutions had 16 and 15 students respectively on 31st March 1930, as compared with 13 and 9 students in the previous year.

The number of training schools and classes for training women teachers employed in primary and the lower classes of secondary schools in Bengal remained unchanged at 10, viz., 3 directly

managed by Government and the rest under the management of Christian and Brahmo Missions. There were 220 pupils in these schools, compared with 199 on the previous year.

Professional and Technical education. Bengal Engineering College.

471. On the 31st March 1930, the Bengal Engineering College had 298 students as against 277 on the corresponding date of the previous year. Twenty-nine and 37 students passed the B. E. and I. E. Examinations respectively, 18 obtained diploma in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and 5 passed the Associateship in Mechanical Engineering Examination during the year.

Ahsanullah School of Engineering.

472. The Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca, had during the year under review, an increase in roll number, there being 470 students on its roll on the 31st March 1930, against 417 in the previous year. The school passed 58 students in the Overseer and 82 in the Sub-Overseer Examinations.

Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

473. The Government Commercial Institute had on its roll 355 students on the 31st March 1930, against 278 on the same date of the preceding year. The Institute passed 30 students in the Final Commercial Course Examination and 128 students in the Special Commercial Course Examination. A scheme for the reorganisation of the Institute has been approved and is awaiting provision of funds for its introduction.

Reformatory and Industrial Schools.

474. The Reformatory and Industrial Schools for Boys at Alipore, had 235 students (viz., Reformatory School 206 and Industrial School 29) on the 31st March 1930 against 180 on the same date of the previous year, the total cost to Government for the upkeep of the schools was Rs. 39,898 against Rs. 35,714. The Director of Public Instruction's proposals for the reorganisation of the schools are now under the consideration of Government and orders have been passed on certain of them. During the year the Inspectress of Schools, Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, was appointed an Assistant Inspectress of Reformatory and Industrial Schools for Girls.

Education of Indian girls and women.

475. The number of schools of all grades and types for Indian girls rose from 16,798 to 17,129 during the year under review and the number of pupils attending them from 423,005 to 435,463. The percentage of increase in the case of Hindu girls was 2·3 as compared with 3·5 for the Muhammadan girls. Forty-eight candidates appeared at the B.A. Examination, of whom 44 were successful; 97 candidates appeared at the I.A. and I.Sc. Examinations, of whom 80 came out successful. Classes in Music continued to be held during the year under report at the Bethune College under the auspices of the Sangit Sangha. At the Matriculation Examination of 1930, 345 candidates appeared from

girls' high schools in the province, of whom 223 passed against 211 in the preceding year. Missionary Societies have organised many special schools for Indian girls in which they teach lace-making, tailoring, and various kinds of needlework, besides imparting general education. The standard of needlework in girls' schools continued to improve under the guidance of trained mistresses. During the year under review 402 candidates from the Eastern Bengal districts took part in the Lady Charmichæl Diploma Examination in needlework, of whom 358 were awarded diplomas.

Education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

476. The number of institutions for the education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians was 68 as in the previous year. Of these, 64 were schools for general education and 4 for special instruction. Twenty-four of the former schools were secondary, 18 higher grade, 20 primary and 2 ungraded. Government directly controlled 3 institutions, viz., the Victoria Boys' School, the Dow Hill Girls' School and the attached training classes, while the remaining institutions were under the management of Railway authorities and various Christian denominations.

The total number of pupils in European schools was 11,447 compared with 11,252 in the previous year. The total expenditure on the education of European and Anglo-Indian children amounted to Rs. 40,50,171 as compared with Rs. 39,68,243 in the previous year.

A sum of Rs. 30,579 was expended on scholarships during the year under review as compared with Rs. 29,885 in the previous year.

Twenty-one women teachers were under training during the year under review in the training classes attached to the Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong. In addition, 3 European male teachers were deputed to the Chelmsford Training College at Ghoragali in the Punjab for training as elementary school teachers.

An increasing tendency is evident among European and Anglo-Indian students to take advantage of University education through the facilities which the Intermediate classes attached to European schools offer. Altogether 32 European or Anglo-Indian students obtained an Intermediate Certificate against 17 in the previous year.

Special arrangements continued to be in force for the training of girl probationers in Sick Nursing in the school hospital at Loreto Convent, Entally, and at the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong. Selected girls in the first named school received training as Children's Nurses.

Muhammadan education.

477. The number of Muhammadan pupils attending all types of educational institutions for Indians rose from 1,304,376 to 1,344,945. The proportion of Muhammadan pupils to the total number of pupils under instruction was 50·2 per cent., but in arts and professional colleges Muhammadans formed only 13·8 per cent. and 16·8 per cent. respectively, of the total number of pupils on the rolls. In the high and middle stages of instruction, the proportion of Muhammadans was 16·6 and 22·2 per cent. respectively of pupils of all communities. In the primary stage the proportion was however 52·5 and in other special schools it was 73·0 per cent.

The number of Islamic intermediate colleges remained unchanged at 3 during the year. The total number of pupils reading in these 3 institutions was 143, as against 129 in the previous year. Of the 66 students who appeared from these colleges in the Islamic Intermediate Examination of 1930, 37 were successful. The total number of madrasahs in the Presidency at the close of the year was 763 with 74,052 pupils on their rolls. Of the above madrasahs, 627 were of the reformed type, the rest being of the old type. Out of the 403 candidates who appeared at the High Madrasah Examination, 216 were successful. In the Junior Madrasah Examination 1,544 students passed out of 2,255 candidates who sat for the examination. The number of muktabs or primary schools for Moslems rose from 24,186 to 24,391. The total number of pupils reading in these institutions was 769,411, of whom 553,146 were boys and 216,265 girls. The number of Moslem girls reading in various grades of recognised schools and colleges in the Presidency was 267,924, as compared with 257,830 in the previous year. Of these, 2 were in arts and professional colleges, 58 were in the high stage, 131 were in the middle stage and 267,373 were in the primary stage and 360 read in special schools. Out of the total number of over 260,000 Moslem girls at the primary stage of instruction only 3,591 girls or 1·3 per cent. are reading in classes V and IV.

Literature and the Press.

Bengal Library and the working of Act XXV of 1867.

478. The total number of publications registered was 4,940, of which 3,407 were books and 1,533 periodicals. Of the former 3,223 were original publications against 3,132 in 1928, and 184 republications and translations against 155 in 1928. The number of non-educational books rose from 2,202 in 1928 to 2,241 in 1929 and educational books from 1,085 to 1,166.

The Press.

479. The total number of newspapers and periodicals both in English and vernacular printed and published during the year under review was 742 against 696 in the previous year. Of this number 274 were newspapers and 468 periodicals. Of the total number of publications 199 were in English, 377 in Bengali and the remainder in other languages. One hundred and twenty-nine newspapers and periodicals were started and 109 ceased to exist during the year.

Literary publications.

480. The quality of "popular literature" was much the same as in previous year. There was more work done in historical research than in the past two years, and some valuable books were published. Political literature was much more abundant although on the whole less objectionable than in the previous year. Aggressive communalism was absent. As before, art was poorly represented. The output of drama maintained both its quantity and its quality, which, as in the past, has been mediocre. Much fiction dealing with a variety of subjects was published, but none of it was of outstanding merit. Detective stories were popular. Historical and mythological novels were small in number and mere love romances still smaller. There was no original poetry worthy of mention.

Proscriptions and prosecutions.

481. During the year under review 1 newspaper, 4 leaflets, 11 books, and 2 pamphlets were forfeited under section 99A of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Thirteen newspapers were prosecuted under sections 124A and 153A of the Indian Penal Code, of which 10 were under section 124A, Indian Penal Code, and 3 under both 124A and 153A, Indian Penal Code. The writer and publisher of one leaflet and author of one poster were prosecuted under sections 124A and 153A, Indian Penal Code. The authors of one poster and one poem were prosecuted under section 124A, Indian Penal Code, and the author of one placard under section 108, Criminal Procedure Code. The authors of three books were prosecuted under section 124A, Indian Penal Code. Seventeen out of 21 of these above cases ended in conviction and one was *sub-judice* and of the remaining three cases one ended in acquittal and two in the execution of necessary bonds.

Topics discussed in the press.

482. During the year under review the extremist press continued to display a bitter anti-British and anti-Government attitude in all matters. As its advocacy of complete political independence grew in strength during the year, its general tone became increasingly violent and often definitely seditious, until in April 1930 it became necessary to issue the Press Ordinance (Ordinance II of 1930). A certain class of writer in the periodical

press showed a desire for revolution and a sympathy with the methods of revolutionary criminals, which was partly a bait for the members of the so-called youth movement, and partly a result of the general epidemic in the use of the word "biplab" (revolution). The principal Muhammadan papers were as virulent as, although distinct from the Swarajist organs in their opposition to Government and equally anti-British in general tone. Generally speaking, the attitude of the Muhammadan press showed an increasing tendency towards extremist views.

In foreign affairs the same anti-British attitude was displayed. Comments on Afghan and Egyptian affairs revealed anti-British spirit.

Literary Societies.

[See General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, pages 293-295.]

Arts and Sciences.

Government School of Art, Calcutta.

483. The Government School of Art, Calcutta, had on its rolls 285 students on the 31st March 1930 against 373 returned on the corresponding date of the previous year. The maximum number of students to be admitted to the school has been limited by Government order to 300 owing to want of accommodation and for the better management of the classes. Of the total number of students under instruction on 31st March 1930, 114 belonged to the Elementary Department, 9 to the Industrial Department, 35 to the Draftsman Department, 91 to the Fine Arts Department, 2 to the Teachers' Department, 22 to the Commercial Art Section and 12 to the Indian Painting Department. Classified according to caste or creed the enrolment included 271 Hindus and 8 Muhammadans; the rest of the students belonged to other creeds. The maintenance charges of the school amounted during the year 1929-30 to Rs. 55,828, of which Rs. 37,802 was provided from Provincial Revenues. An exhibition of Drawings, Painting and Engravings by students and teachers of the school was held in December 1929. The Hon'ble Lady Jackson was pleased to open the Exhibition.

Other Schools of art.

484. There were 4 other schools of art in the Presidency, three of which received grants from Government.

CHAPTER VIII.—Miscellaneous.

[See General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, pages 298-301.]

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

485. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal from April 1929 to September 1930, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 8 Chaplains of the Church of England, 11 Clergymen of the Additional Clergy or other Societies, 5 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, the Most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Ferdinand Perier, S.J., and 4 Clergymen of the Roman Catholic Church.

Hedjaz Pilgrims.

486. During the year under review, one ship with 552 pilgrims sailed from Calcutta for the Hedjaz in the month of April 1930. The small number of pilgrims is partly attributed to the bad economic conditions prevailing in the country. No appreciable result of the working of the Protection of the Pilgrims Amendment Act of 1929 is yet in evidence. The Haj Inquiry Committee made various recommendations affecting the port of Calcutta in regard to pilgrim traffic and the decision of the Government of India in the matter is awaited.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1929.]

General.

487. Lieutenant-Colonel T. C. Boyd, I.M.S., continued to hold charge of the department during the year under review.

Analytical cases.

488. During the year under review 8,851 articles were examined in the department as against 8,876 articles of the preceding year. The analyses of excisable drugs which were taken over by this department, with effect from 14th April 1927, were continued during the year and the number of analyses carried out in this year was 2,044 as against 1,867 in 1928 and 1,045 in 1927. In the General Analytical Department 3,618 examinations were made as against 3,381 of the preceding year.

Medico-legal cases.

489. The number of medico-legal cases referred to this department for examination in 1929 was 2,251 as against 2,412 in 1928. The number of human poisoning cases investigated was 789 as against 1,201 in the previous year, while the number of animal poisoning cases was 144. There were 1,059 stain cases.

The number of detections of poison in human poisoning cases was 213 as compared with 156 in 1928, while that in animal poisoning cases was 88, i.e., 61·1 per cent. against 61·67 per cent. in 1928.

Veterinary Department.

[Annual Report of the Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department for the year 1929-30.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

490. At the beginning of the session 176 students were on the rolls in the three classes, 163 prolonged their studies throughout the session against 168 of last year. Forty-nine were admitted in class A as freshmen. Fifty-six students were from Bengal against 60 last year. The rest included students from Bihar and Orissa, Penang, Ceylon, Iraq, Cochin State and elsewhere. On the results of the annual examinations the Board of Examiners stated that they considered the results were satisfactory. They noticed high proficiency in Operative Surgery in class C and in Anatomy in class B. With regard to class A they observed that the students had improved in their proficiency in the subject of Handling of Animals, whilst teaching in the subject of soundness was not up to the usual standard.

Ten Riflemen from Assam attended the four months' training class for Farriers and Dressers during the year.

The riding class which was thrown open to outsiders attracted four students.

College Hospital.

491. Three thousand seven hundred and sixty-six patients were treated and 282 operations performed against 2,674 and 291, respectively, last year.

Raymond Research Laboratory.

492. The Laboratory continued to do useful work in examining brains of different species of rabid animals and many other pathological specimens and in diagnosing diseases of cattle and horses. Autogenous vaccines were also successfully prepared at the Laboratory for supply to the Army Remount Depôt and private practitioners.

Civil Veterinary Department.

493. During the year there was a marked increase in the mortality of animals from contagious diseases, the total number of deaths from such diseases being 15,933 against 13,848 in the pre-

vious year. Mortality from rinderpest which accounted for 67 per cent. of the total rose from 8,806 to 10,183 and the number of deaths from hæmorrhagic septicæmia was 3,590 against 3,158 in the preceding year. There were 581 deaths from foot-and-mouth disease against 281 in the previous year.

More inoculations were performed, the figures being 142,761 inoculations in 704 outbreaks against 122,675 in 596 outbreaks in 1928-29. The death roll among inoculated animals was only 0·5 per cent. of the total. During the year a scheme for protection with serum simultaneous inoculation against rinderpest of the cattle of the raiyats in certain khas-mahal areas in Bakarganj district was carried out under which the raiyats were required to pay for the inoculation. Under the scheme 1,243 head of cattle including buffaloes was protected by this method without any fatality. There was a decrease of patients treated by the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons on tour, viz., 129,406 against 131,564, while the number of cases treated at the dispensaries and hospitals rose from 60,606 to 63,118.

Dispensaries.

494. During the year the District Boards showed some activity in the construction of dispensaries. The District Boards of Faridpur, Dinajpur, Pabna and Rangpur have either constructed dispensaries or sanctioned their construction. Other District Boards such as those of Chittagong and Noakhali have taken steps in that direction.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1929-30.]

495. The total receipts of the Garden fell during the year under report from Rs. 1,41,017-4-3 in 1928-29 to Rs. 1,26,518-13 and the expenditure from Rs. 1,32,894-7 to Rs. 1,17,954-1-8. The number of visitors was 1,109,901, a decrease of 27,009 as compared with the previous year, when they were exceptionally high on account of the exhibition of a white elephant in the garden and other attractions such as the Calcutta Exhibition and the Congress. The gate money realised also decreased from Rs. 78,333 to Rs. 75,609-3. Notwithstanding the reduction in revenue, the financial condition of the garden was satisfactory and the closing balance showed an increase of Rs. 3,029-11-1 over the previous year. The garden was as usual open free to the public one day in each month and 50,892 persons visited the garden on free days as against 50,199 in the previous year.

Administration of the Cinematograph Act, 1929-30.

496. During the year under review, the Bengal Board of Censors held 14 meetings and certified 696 films. Six hundred and ninety-eight films were examined by the Board's Inspectors. Certificates were refused for 10 films and 61 films were passed after objectionable portions had been excised.

497. The decision of the Government of India on the recommendation of the Indian Cinematograph Committee in regard to the establishment of a central censorship authority is being awaited.

Administration of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

[Report on the administration of the Indian Electricity Act in Bengal for 1929.]

498. During the year under report two new licences—the Kurseong Electric Licence and the Bhatpara Riverside Electric (Distribution) Licence were granted. Several fresh applications were received for the grant of licences for the supply of electric energy in different places which shows that there is a growing demand for electricity in the province; but in some cases it was observed that due consideration was not given to the amount of finance required for running such undertakings and to the evolution of a practical scheme which can be put into operation under competent technical supervision. The applications of previous years for the supply of electric energy to the towns of Rajshahi, Serajganj and Comilla remained under consideration. None of the existing licences was revoked.

Among the new licences applied for the Himalayan Electric Licence and the North Bengal Electric Licence are worthy of special mention. Both these schemes related to the development of hydro-electric power in North Bengal on a large scale.

The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, commenced the construction of a tunnel under the river Hooghly between the southern station and the Botanical Gardens in December 1929.

There was some improvement in the working of the Hooghly-Chinsura Electric Licence, 1929, and few complaints were received.

Few complaints were received regarding the supply of energy under the Burdwan Electric Licence. Some improvements have been effected in the distribution system during the year, but there is still considerable scope for improvement in this direction.

The supply of energy to the public by the Mymensingh Electric Supply Corporation has been as satisfactory as can be expected under the prevailing conditions of unsatisfactory management. The licensees were prosecuted on two separate occasions during the year for failing to submit annual accounts of the undertaking to Government and were convicted.

Very little progress was made in developing the Narayanganj Electric Licence; the management of the undertaking was very unsatisfactory.

Sanction to the supply of electric energy under section 28 (*1*) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, was granted to:—

(1) East Indian Railway Administration for the supply of energy to the Telegraph Department staff quarters at Asansol for a period of five years.

(2) The Indian Iron and Steel Company, Limited, for the supply of energy to the Asansol Municipality's pumping station for a period of ten years.

(3) Dishergarh Power Supply Company, Limited, for the supply of energy to the East Indian Railway at Sitarampore, the Government building at Sitarampore and Beluri Zemindar's Estate buildings for a period of eight years.

Sanction was granted under section 27 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, for the supply of energy by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, to the Serampore Picture House situated outside the licensed area specified in the Serampore Electric Licence.

There were 58 accidents during the year against 52 in 1928, of which 12 were fatal. In the majority of cases of fatal accidents and in other cases where breaches of the Indian Electricity Act and Rules were discovered those responsible were prosecuted, and in all cases convictions with fines or warning resulted.

Auxiliary Force and Indian Territorial Force.

499. The question of the formation of an Urban Unit of the Indian Territorial Force in Calcutta is under consideration.

DETAILED INDEX.

B. G. Press—1931-32—4150—450.